

Carolina country

the monthly magazine of North Carolina's electric cooperatives

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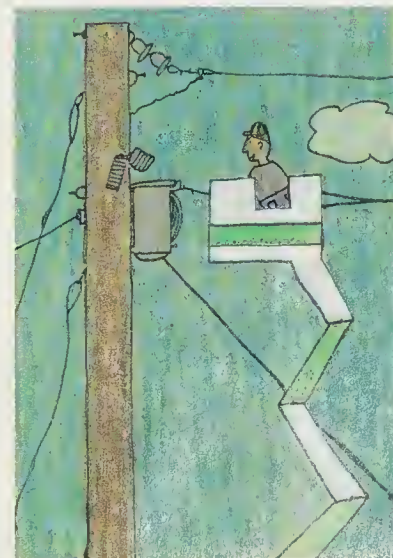
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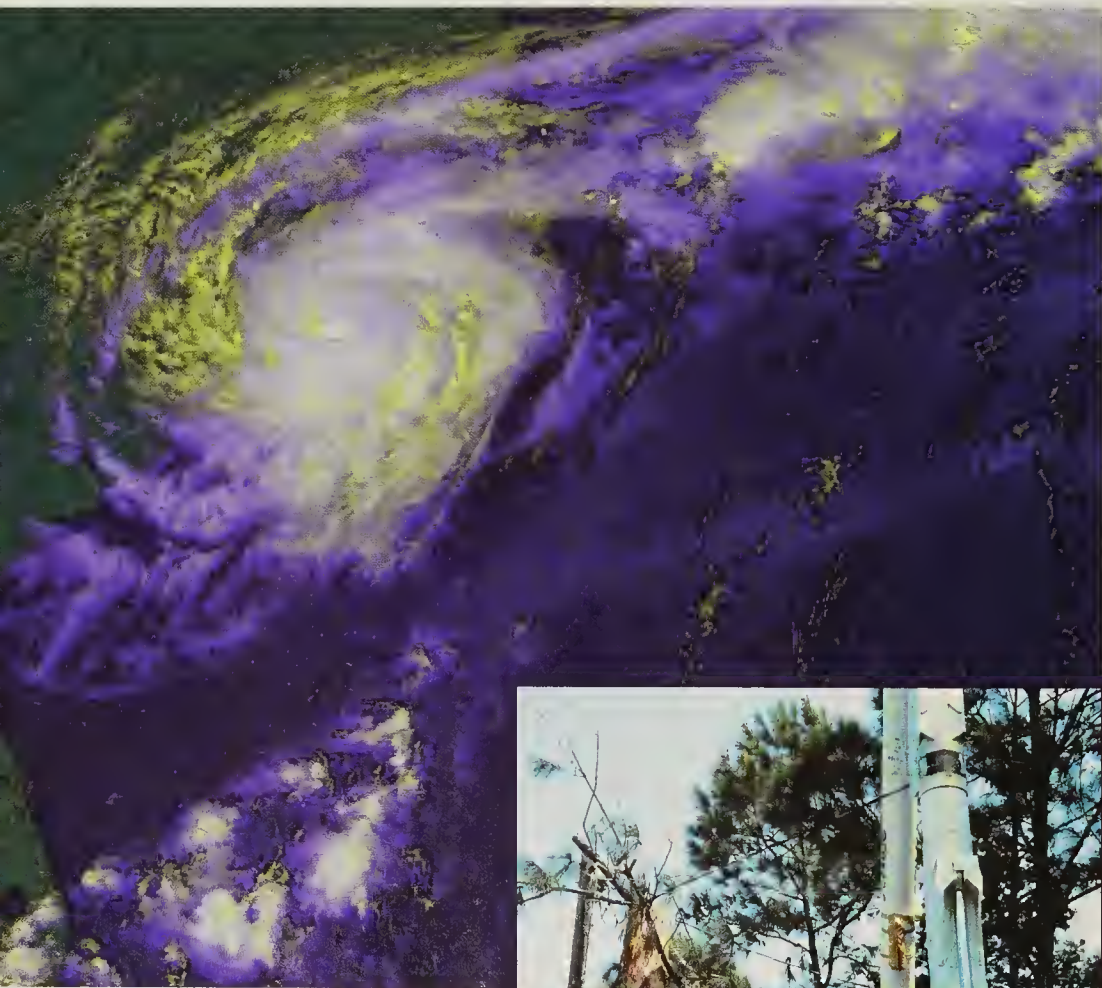
"My Lineman," by Misty Harris
She is the granddaughter of
Everett Ludwig of Frisco, Cape
Hatteras Electric Cooperative.



More power to you

Bonnie

threw the first pitch of the
1998 hurricane season



Above: August 27, 1998 satellite image by NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center.

Right: Kerry Hooper, lineman first-class with Cape Hatteras Electric, tends to a fallen tree after Bonnie struck at Frisco.



Michael Gery

As it headed for North Carolina's coast on Tuesday, Aug. 25, Hurricane Bonnie and its 115 mile-per-hour winds threatened to be one of the hardest storms to slam the coast in many years. While it did not reach the height expected once ashore, the storm caused wind damage and flooding in coastal communities from Wilmington to Corolla. After making landfall at Cape Fear in early morning on Wednesday, Aug. 26, Bonnie spun nearly in place for much of that day, gradually losing its power. It moved northeastward Thursday across New Bern and into the western shore of Pamlico Sound as a "tropical storm," then intensified to hurricane force early Friday morning. The storm tore across Albemarle Sound and over the northern Outer Banks Friday morning, Aug. 28, and into Virginia's tidewater area before moving out to sea.

Electric cooperatives cover all our coastal counties except New Hanover and Tyrrell, so their line crews, operations and communications staff, began preparing Tuesday for around-the-clock work to repair damage and restore power. An additional 1,500 electric cooperative linemen and private contractors from central and western North Carolina and surrounding states assembled Wednesday to assist the coastal co-ops.

At the peak of power outages at about 10:30 a.m. Thursday, the co-ops altogether reported power out to 140,000 meters or approximately 349,000 people. As the worst winds passed Thursday morning, crews were at work on the



damage, and by late afternoon Friday, power was back on to 96 percent of co-op accounts. By Saturday, power was restored completely except for scattered cases, where structural damage or remote locations prevented reconnection.

Eleven co-ops experienced outages and damage to their systems. They were Ablemarle, Brunswick, Cape Hatteras, Carteret-Craven, Four County, Harkers Island, Jones-Onslow, Lumbee River, Roanoke, Tideland and Tri-County. As Carolina Country went to press, preliminary estimates of damage to co-op systems stood at \$6.5 million.

Managers at the affected co-ops said the procedures that North Carolina's cooperatives follow after a major storm – to take outage reports, respond to consumers, inform news outlets, procure equipment, coordinate and dispatch crews, and attend to outages – operated smoothly, ensuring confidence that co-ops are well prepared to handle other big storms that may arise this hurricane season.

Michael Gery



Above: Regrouping near Lake Landing between service repairs the day after the storm are (from left) Tideland EMC's engineering tech Kenny Neal with apprentice III lineman Vincent Whitfield and apprentice I lineman Kane Cox.

Below: Line crews from Crescent EMC and Rutherford EMC just before setting out to help coastal co-ops the morning of Aug. 27. They assembled in Raleigh at the central supply and dispatch base of Tarheel Electric Membership Association.



Tommy Greer

Planning for the Year 2000

The electric utility companies serving the state, including electric cooperatives, have been working to solve any potential Year 2000 problem, or "Y2K" bug" as it is known, that may affect electric service.

Back in the 1950s, when computers were in their infancy, programmers weren't really thinking about the year 2000. At that time their problem was the considerable expense of storing data. They used the shortcut of representing dates with two-digit years instead of four – "98" was 1998 with the "19" implied, so dates read 10/01/98. The practice was adopted worldwide and continued well into the 1980s, even after the cost of data storage decreased drastically.

So what's the problem? When the year rolls over to 2000, or "00," computer programs may not recognize "00" as a valid date and may either just shut down or begin producing invalid data. The unpredictability of what the computer systems will do causes great concern in almost every facet of today's society, including the electric utility industry.

The statewide power supply cooperative North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation is committed to meeting the challenges to business presented by the Year 2000 and is taking steps to become ready to resolve Year 2000 problems. NCEMC has established a Y2K Task Force to develop a plan to reduce the potential exposure of customers.

Electric cooperatives statewide are also developing a plan to find and solve any potential Year 2000 problems. They have committed resources to the Y2K situation and are assessing all systems that may be affected—both their equipment and that of their vendors.

According to Annette Stamatkin, vice president of NCEMC's Information Systems and project leader for the Year 2000 Compliance Team, the corporation's goal is to ensure all critical computer systems are suitable for continued use into the year 2000. "NCEMC plans to complete its evaluation and testing of its critical systems by the third quarter of 1999," reports Stamatkin.

Nelle Hotchkiss, director of government and public relations for NCEMC and a member of the Y2K Task Force, adds "We are taking the Y2K issue seriously."



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On Nov. 3, vote "Yes" for bond issues to improve rural water and sewer systems

By Chris Heagarty



People all over the state are joining together to support an important issue on Election Day. On Nov. 3, you will have the opportunity to vote on two bond issues: \$800 million in state-backed bonds for clean water grants and loans, and \$200 million to provide grants, loans and other financing for natural gas extensions into unserved areas. These bonds will address critical needs in our state, particularly in rural areas.

The bonds have the support of both political parties and were sponsored in the legislature by State Rep. Jim Carpenter (R-Macon) and State Sen. John Kerr (D-Wayne).

Sen. Kerr says, "The pristine drinking water that runs from our mountains becomes tainted as it runs east, being polluted by tons of municipal sewer discharge. These bonds will address a serious public health concern."

Regardless of whether you live in the east or west, almost everyone is downstream from someone else. By repairing outdated or damaged sewer systems we can avoid serious health risks. In areas where well water has been found unfit, these bonds will help finance sewer and water extension lines to those distressed areas.

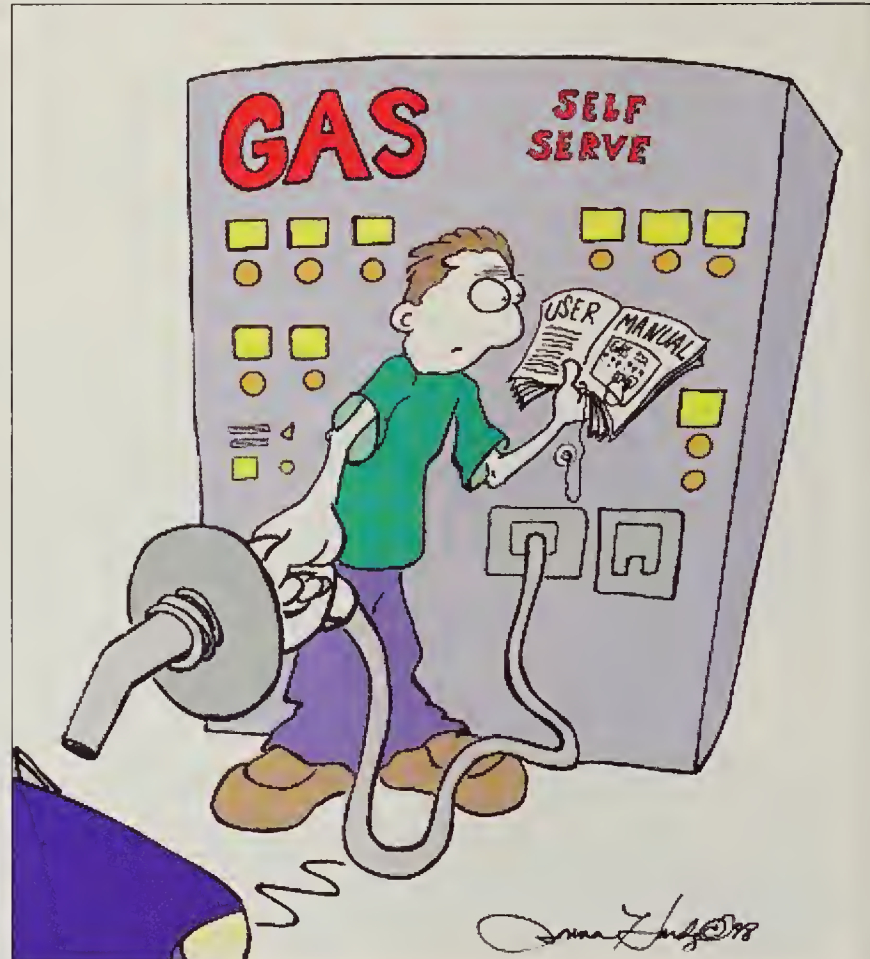
Rep. Carpenter says, "These bonds are critical for the kind of economic growth we need in rural parts of our state."

Brian Crutchfield, economic development manager for Blue Ridge Electric, agrees, "The availability of water and sewer are as critical to the growth of rural communities as electricity and other energy sources. Rural areas in North Carolina lack water and sewer facilities and need financial assistance from the state to expand their systems into under-served areas."

While \$1 billion seems like a very large number, research by the North Carolina Rural Center indicates more \$11 billion, that's billion with a "b," is needed for the state's water and sewer systems over the next 20 years. With bond money, the investment can be paid over a long period of time at low financing, instead of by increasing the state budget and raising taxes.

Because much of this bond money will be directed to rural areas, the people served by the cooperatives are the ones most likely to see the benefits of these water, sewer and natural gas improvements. We urge you to support the bonds, to protect rural drinking water and help rural areas grow.

Chris Heagarty is manager of state government relations for the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives.



Readers' comments

More low-water bridges

Since my wife and I own a summer home in Ashe County near West Jefferson, we enjoy keeping abreast of things there through your magazine. We get it as a result of our being subscribers of Blue Ridge Electric Membership. We spend a lot of time in our Jeep rambling the back roads there.

I read with interest about the low-water bridge in Rockford as one of only three such structures left in the state ["Along the Low-Water Bridge at Rockford," August 1998, not in some local editions]. Anyone who has canoed the New River and had to get out and go around these bridges can tell you that there are a bunch of them left in Ashe County.

There are several off Highway 163 near Glendale Springs. There is one where the pavement ends on Boggs Road at the river (on the back way into Glendale Springs). There is another back up that road at the Methodist Camp, and there is one on Hartzog Road, (I believe, not too far from there, again off Highway 163).

It is my belief that these three are state-maintained. There are several others on the New River which appear to be privately maintained. I am aware of these bridges because we "flat-landers" find them particularly unusual and interesting. My wife also finds them to be a little too close to the water to suit her!

William M. Hill, Jr.
102 King Circle
Louisburg, NC 27549

"We feel that we belong"

Your letters on what your electric cooperative means to you

Do customers of big utilities and service companies, like AT&T or Citibank, feel like part of a family?

Does the company chairman greet them personally at an annual dinner meeting? Do those customers understand and trust the companies' advice?

Maybe so.

Looking through the letters we received on the topic "what my electric cooperative means to me," we were reminded of how attached consumers can be to their utility. Some people are downright affectionate. The observations, testimony and feelings expressed on these pages tell us that the real strength of an electric cooperative – or of any service business for that matter – lies in its personality. And it seems that North Carolina's electric cooperatives put forth a personality that is strong and brave, yet kind and understanding of human needs. They are business organizations who have a sense of where they came from and a commitment to the well being of their families and neighbors. They are frugal but do not cut corners when it comes to equipment and safety. They are like the big sister or brother you can look up to with love and pride.

We received more than 250 submissions of stories and art to illustrate this month's theme. (*At the time, Crescent EMC and Davidson EMC had not become EnergyUnited.*) The artwork by young people, age 6 through 20, is exceptional. We are thinking of ways to use more of the stories and pictures in coming issues of the magazine and elsewhere.

—MG



Amelia Craig, age 12
Union EMC

An asset to the community

It is my honor to share the many reasons I appreciate my electric cooperative, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC.

The people who work for this company truly go the extra mile in serving their customers. It's on those icy, snowy nights or just after a terrible electrical storm that I most appreciate the men in those white trucks working diligently to restore my current. Regardless of the type of weather, my cooperative wastes no time in repairing our services. In the 19 years they have served us, we've never been without current for long. I truly admire those workers who are away from their own families during those raw bitter nights.

I appreciate the genuine friendliness of the employees when you meet them firsthand at an annual meeting they sponsor for members. At this yearly gathering, the company provided not only a delicious meal and prizes for their many guests, but useful data about the co-op's activities and tips on how to cut your electric bills.

I appreciate the very informative newsletter, "Along the Line," that the company mails out monthly. And as a primary grade teacher, I am truly grateful for the employees who volunteer their time to visit my classroom to demonstrate the usefulness and dangers of electricity.

I am very grateful for this fine cooperative and its service. It is an asset to our community.

Rita Drake
Pinetops
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Tri-County EMC treats us like family

I live in a small town called Dudley, N.C. When my husband became ill, we had a hard time getting our bills paid. Our electric bill got behind. I went to Tri-County EMC and explained my husband's illness to them. Tri-County told me not to worry and to pay what I could, and they would keep my power on.

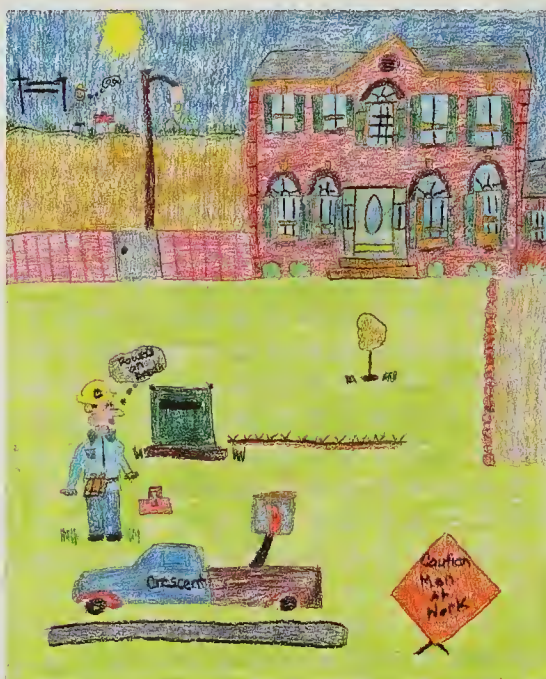
When Fran came and left in 1996, Tri-County was sure to get our power back on as quickly as they could because of my husband's illness.

My Tri-County EMC treats us like family. Everyone there is very helpful and caring.

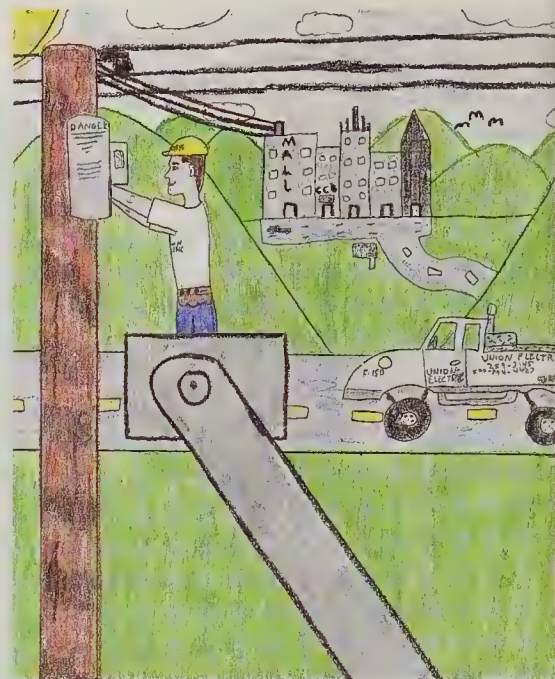
We have been doing business with them for 30 years now, and I have not heard anyone say anything negative about Tri-County in our community.

It is very hard to put into words the deepest, sincere gratefulness we feel for our electric cooperative. There are not many companies today that would lend a hand in time of personal need. From the bottom of our hearts, our whole family would like to say thank you for going beyond your call of duty.

Linda Goff
Dudley
Tri-County EMC



Crystal Connolly, age 13
Crescent EMC



Chris McCoy, age 13
Union EMC

Reliable power, reliable advice

I was initially skeptical about receiving service from a rural cooperative and expected to be without electricity frequently. When I lived in rural Maryland and rural Ohio and the power went out, it stayed off for a while. That hasn't happened here. Even during Hurricane Fran, our power was only out for a few days. Yes, we experience brownouts on the hottest days and during electrical storms, but the power stays on. It's reliable.

When we moved into our house in 1993, it had two ancient, inefficient water heaters. We purchased two new ones – the energy-saving type – from Four County EMC and have been very happy with their performance. We NEVER run out of hot water, yet our energy consumption did not increase.

When our heating/AC unit died, we called Four County again to ask about their Energy Loan program. After receiving recommendations and estimates from several of their approved providers, we hired one to divide our house into two zones and we installed two new systems, complete with new ductwork. Our total electric and loan payments are the same or less each month than our previous electric payment alone, thanks to the efficiency of the new systems.

Is Four County perfect? No. But they are reliable, the office is staffed with people who seem to care about their neighbors, and I like them.

Sharon Hartung
Currie
Four County EMC

Linemen don't forget

It was a dark night in September. Really dark. My husband had left on an extended business trip, and I was at home with four children under the age of seven. I had just finished bathing the children when the power went out. There I was, frightened and alone – well, kind of alone. I called my local EMC (South River) and was told "the boys" would be on their way.

Sure enough, my lifesavers soon arrived. My children were thrilled to see the big truck. I was thrilled to see help on the way. After a quick assessment of the problem, I was informed that my transformer had blown out.

All I could think about was how long the power had been out during Hurricane Fran, a mere three weeks prior to this evening. As I held my newborn baby in my arms, I looked up at the lineman and asked, "How long will it take you to fix the transformer?"

He confidently replied, "30 minutes, ma'am."

Greatly relieved, I repeated in amazement, "Only 30 minutes?"

With a element of humor, he responded, "Ma'am, after Hurricane Fran, we're good!"

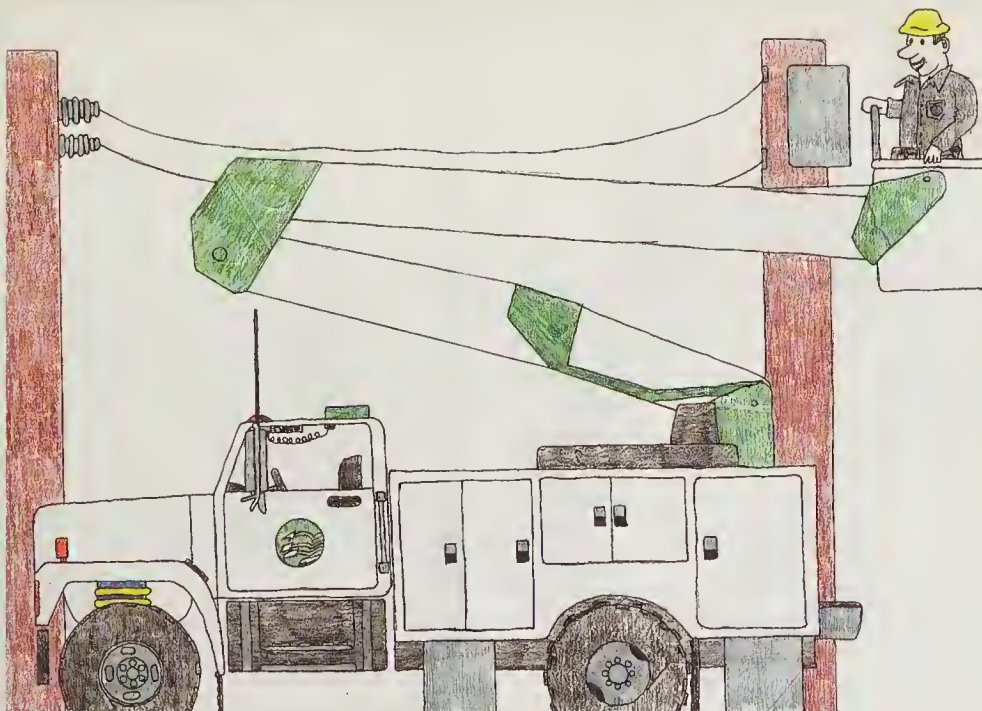
Soon, my transformer was replaced and my power restored. But that's not the end of the story.

Two months later I was at a church dinner, visiting for the first time, when a lady introduced me to her husband, Larry Yaw. He said, "I know who you are. I replaced your transformer that Friday night in September!" I was impressed that I mattered that much to him, that he would remember our situation even two months later.

The reason I like my EMC is because it offers personalized service from people who really care.

Thanks South River EMC, and thanks Larry Yaw!

Jolene Nystrom
Autryville
South River EMC



Joseph Doughtie, age 12
Roanoke Electric



Dustin Harris, age 10
Crescent EMC

A warm feeling in northern Caldwell County

I live in northern Caldwell County with my elderly mother. We are fortunate to have been served for almost 20 years by Blue Ridge EMC. But an incident last year showed us just how fortunate we really are to have this service.

Just before Christmas, during the widening of Highway 321 across from my home, a work crew cut the power line running into the house. We'd gotten used to periodic "black outs" of an hour or two due to the construction, so my mother thought nothing of the outage while I was away at work.

I arrived home from work after dark and was dismayed to find the house darkened and, even worse, becoming quite cold. I called the Blue Ridge repair number, but we did not expect to have electricity for some time due to the late hour and the fact that it was so close to the Christmas holiday. Yet within an hour a crew had arrived and restored our power.

In the months since the "Christmas outage," work crews from Blue Ridge have visited us from time to time as the roadwork continues. Their service is always prompt, courteous and friendly. Sometimes I feel badly for taking our electric service for granted. But perhaps a true measure of how good a company is can be found in just how little we have to think about it. This is what my cooperative means to me: quality service from quality people.

Freida Phillips
Lenior
Blue Ridge EMC



Austin McCoy, age 7
Crescent EMC

After the tornado, May 1998

On May 7, 1998, a tornado hit my home, my mother's and daddy's home, and several of my neighbors' homes. It was a terrible time that lasted about seven minutes. It destroyed my father's tobacco barns, a large tool shed, and a pack-house. It also knocked out six windows, destroyed two bedrooms, and a screened-in back porch.

Our neighbors have been wonderful. But our Surry-Yadkin EMC has been great. The night of the storm they came immediately, started cutting trees and restored our power. The next day they came back and checked on us to make sure everything was okay.

The night of the storm I really appreciated them getting the power on so quickly. I don't think after all we had been through that we could have coped with staying in a dark house. Thanks to the guys at Surry-Yadkin EMC. You're the best! We don't say thank you enough for the long hours. God bless you all, and I thank God no one got hurt.

Joyce Key
Siloam
Surry-Yadkin EMC

Let me count the ways

I love my electric co-op because they really care about their customers. No matter what the weather condition may be, they respond quickly and accurately. Roxboro has had its share of treacherous weather. Ice storms, hurricanes and tornadoes have whipped through our small town and caused power outages. Yet I've never had to go more than a couple of days without electricity. Most of the time our power is restored within a couple of hours.

The second reason why I love my electric co-op is because they have reasonable rates. They don't overcharge their customers. They even reward their customers at the end of the year for paying their light bills on time.

Finally, I love my electric cooperative because they are creative. It was a brilliant idea to have this "Nothing Could Be Finer" contest. I've gotten a chance to express myself and use my writing talent. I love the stories that I get to read each month; they give me something to look forward to. I would like to tell my electric cooperative to keep up the good work, because they're doing an excellent job.

Tschanna Harris
Roxboro
Piedmont EMC

Nothing could be finer

Beacons in the shadows of a giant

I am a third generation customer of Davidson electric cooperative in Walnut Cove, N.C. To me, that represents a belief in quality and standards, demanding the best service and doing all you can to get it and keep it. You might even say it is a "family tradition" for us.

It is no secret that Walnut Cove is in the backyard of Duke Power's Steam Station near Belews Creek. That is just one reason why I appreciate my electric cooperative – my house and those around us are beacons in the shadows of a giant.

My grandfather, Enie Neal, and his wife, Lucy, inherited the farm my house sits on around 1943. At the time, four residences within a one-half mile radius of here were without power. Grandpa had patronized the REA co-op up until that time, and when preparing to move to this farm, he was upset to find everyone around here had Duke Power. He vowed he would have nothing but REA. He knew Nathan Yates at Davidson Electric in Madison. As the story goes, he convinced the co-op to pull power lines about a mile through very wooded terrain to supply electricity to the four houses here. This is pretty significant since Duke would have only had to pull their lines about 300 feet.

Today, Davidson EMC still supplies our power as well as that for 15 other residences and one church. If you go one-quarter mile in both directions from our home, you can run into customers of the "other company." When upon occasion, those "distant" neighbors are without power and all is dark on the ends of our road, the lights are on here. Times like those make me smile and say, "Thanks, Grandpa."

Richard D. Neal
Walnut Cove
Davidson EMC

"Where do you want that pole relocated?"

In the spring of 1992, my wife and I decided to start a backyard bait and tackle business in our garage basement. We live in rural Richmond County north of Rockingham near Ledbetter Lake.

In 1993, business became fairly good, and at times our lower driveway coming around to our basement became a little congested. Our electric service pole at the time was located at the corner of the house just across the driveway. Whenever people came by and pulled up at the garage, we would tell them of the pole before they left.

Nevertheless, within two weeks the pole was "backed into" and hit three times. I would call the co-op (Pee Dee Electric), and they would promptly send out repairmen and make repairs.

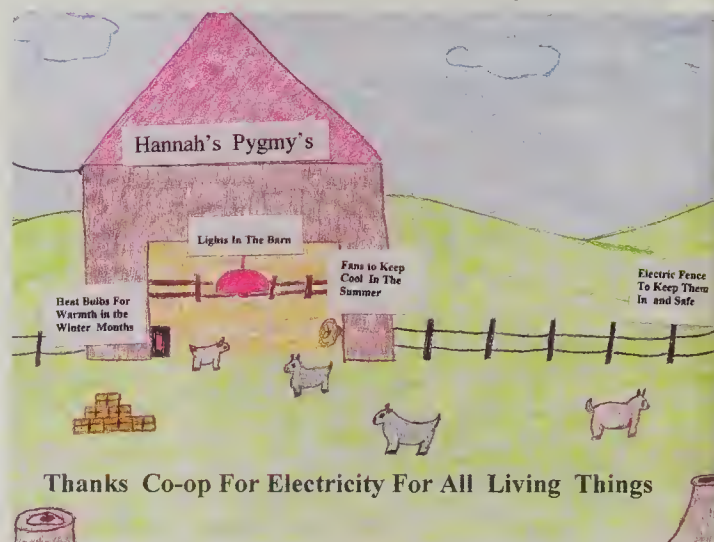
After the third hit, Mr. M.C. Long, manager of the Rockingham district of the co-op, came to the house personally. He said, "Bobby, where do you want that service pole relocated?" He gave me a little red flag to mark another place in the yard, which I did.

The next day a crew came and relocated the pole to where it stands today unharmed.

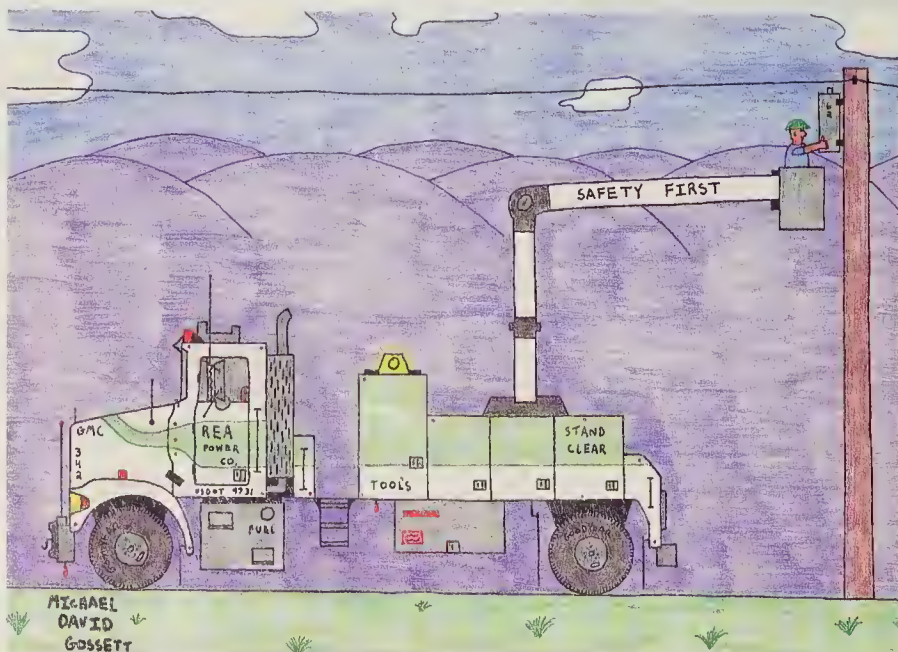
Bobby Elmore, Jr.
Rockingham
Pee Dee EMC



Jannah Adams, age 13
Tri-County EMC



Hannah Efird, age 15
Union EMC



Michael David Gossett, age 17
Rutherford EMC



Charity Wright, age 12
Rutherford EMC

We feel that we belong

Brunswick EMC gives us a tremendous feeling of belonging. The annual meetings, which are held in the fall in Bolivia, are fun, well planned, and informative – all for the benefit of the membership. We also receive news of what's happening at Brunswick EMC each month with our electric bill. These people really love the community and are a part of it.

Their staff worked quickly and endlessly to restore power during the two 1996 hurricanes. Even though our house is a vacation home, and we were not there during the storms, we did not worry because we knew that the power would be back on as soon as humanly possible. When we drove to Shallotte to check for storm damage, we never had to throw out any food items in our refrigerator because they had the power back on.

The following descriptions sum up what Brunswick EMC has proved to me since I became a member in 1979:

Businesslike
Exemplary
Mission-oriented
Caring

Incidentally, David Batten, general manager of Brunswick EMC, shares our last name. At the first annual meeting we attended, the registrar's eyes lit up when we told her our name was Batten. Would we have gotten special treatment if she thought we were related to David? Probably not, but who cares! Brunswick EMC has always made us feel like VIPs!

Matilda Batten
Durham
Brunswick EMC

Remembering Timmy

As Fran wailed and raged outside our doors and windows, we lost all our electric power. For four days we reverted back to our ancestor's status. I'll never forget that Sunday night when the power trucks rolled down the hill in front of my house as they repaired our lines. My neighbors cheered and shouted with joy as our lights flickered then held. Air conditioners chased away steamy heat. Freezers again cooled our summer bounties in their cold depths. Fans blew and stoves cooked.

As the gallant men who had devoted days and nights to restore our power passed our homes, I thought of my nephew who died helping others when Hugo came through in 1989. He was one of the brave linemen who went to restore Charlotte's lights. Although only 21, Timmy loved his job and was good at it. We are proud of him.

The manager of Central EMC visited our family and told me about riding the lines with Timmy once after a storm as they looked for downed lines. Timmy was an example of these men who go out in rain, snow, sleet and wind to give us warmth, food and comfort. They are a small part of my electric company and one reason I love it.

Betsy Johnson
Sanford
Central EMC

Timmy worked with a line construction firm contracted by Central EMC to help restore power in the Crescent EMC area after Hurricane Hugo. Central EMC employees remember him and his funeral service in Sanford.

Send us your stories and photos. Earn \$50.

Here are the themes and deadlines for the coming months of "Nothing Could Be Finer." You don't have to be a superior writer to send us a letter. Put your heart into it.

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. Only one entry per household per month.
3. Typed or e-mail, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
4. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
5. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
6. We pay \$50 for each submission published.
7. Send to Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616. Or by e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com

December

The Finest Story in North
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*Historical truths, humorous
or otherwise.*

Deadline: Oct. 15



Jessica Wood, age 15
Blue Ridge Electric

THEY WANT TO REPRESENT YOU

Where the candidates for Congress stand on electric utility restructuring



We sent questionnaires to all Republicans and Democrats who had filed to run in the Nov. 3 election.

The 106th Congress that convenes in January probably will consider some form of legislation that would restructure the electric utility business.

To help you understand how candidates for Congress are approaching this issue, the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives and Carolina Country in August surveyed the major party hopefuls who want to represent you in Congress. Because of our publishing deadlines, the state's Sept. 15 primary election had not been held, so we did not know the official nominees in each race. Instead, we sent questionnaires to all Republicans and Democrats who had filed to run in the Nov. 3 election.

Among the 35 individuals who declared their candidacy for the primary election, 23 responded to Carolina Country's survey. Of the 23 candidates, one did not respond to our request for a statement on their "position regarding the restructuring of the electric utility industry." Candidates are listed by district and alphabetically.

The General Assembly this spring redrew North Carolina's 12 Congressional districts as ordered by a three-judge federal panel. The biggest changes occurred in districts 1 and 12, but all 12 were affected. The accompanying map shows the districts for the 1998 election.

Redrawing the districts caused a postponement until Sept. 15 of the traditional

May primary election.

Politically speaking, the family of electric cooperatives is very powerful. Co-op members embody America's heartland, family institutions and values of honest hard work that cultivated communities and the countryside. Politicians know that electric cooperatives are owned by the people they serve, and that most of those people are residential consumers, not corporations.

Across America, electric cooperatives represent 30 million people in 46 states. Across North Carolina, we represent more than 1.6 million people in 93 of the 100 counties. When a family this size speaks, government listens.

The role that Congress and the federal government will play in changing the structure of the electric utility business has not been completely determined. Some officials want to see the entire electric service industry deregulated by a certain time. Others are pressing for national consumer protection standards. State governments, meanwhile, are studying or beginning to implement at their own pace wider competition in the electric service business.

As you consider your choices at the polls on Nov. 3, consider also your membership in an electric cooperative.

For more information about candidates or about issues surrounding the electric utility industry, contact the Government and Public Relations Department at the N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives. (800) 662-8835, ext. 3079. E-mail: nelle.hotchkiss@ncemcs.com.

The following declared candidates did not respond to Carolina Country's survey:

Leonard D. Plyer – U.S. Senate candidate
Steve Franks – U.S. Senate candidate
Ralph McKinney Jr. – 4th Congressional District candidate
Dan Page – 2nd Congressional District candidate
Richard D. Skillen – 2nd Congressional District candidate
Rory Blake – 9th Congressional District candidate
Jordan Bonner – 9th Congressional District candidate
Scott Keadle – 12th Congressional District candidate
John J. Kozlowski Jr. – 12th Congressional District candidate
Steve Wood – 12th Congressional District candidate
Mike Jackson – 12th Congressional District candidate
Tom Bush – 12th Congressional District candidate



U.S. SENATE – 6 YEARS

JOHN EDWARDS



Party: Democrat
Profession: Attorney
Education: B.S., N.C. State; J.D., UNC-Chapel Hill
Residence: Raleigh

While there are many potential benefits to energy deregulation, there are also many potential pitfalls. Depending on how the legislation is structured, increased competition can either lead to lower prices and better service for consumers or hurt residential consumers, rural residents, and the environment. Therefore, we must take extreme care in how we craft any deregulation laws.

I will support deregulation of the electric companies only if legislation is shaped with the consumer and the environment in mind. I will not hesitate to oppose deregulation, however, if it comes at the expense of residential consumers, rural or remote users, the environment, or service reliability.

I decided not to accept campaign contributions from utility company PACs and Washington lobbyists so you would know that I won't be their Senator, I'll be yours.

D.M. "LAUCH" FAIRCLOTH



Party: Republican
Profession: Businessman, Farmer, U.S. Senator
Residence: Sampson County
Government Experience: Former Chairman of the N.C. Highway Commission and Former Secretary of the N.C. Department of Commerce
Incumbency: One 6-year term
Committee Assignments: Appropriations, Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs and Small Business; Appropriations Subcommittee on the District

of Columbia), Banking Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Regulatory Relief

The ideal electricity restructuring legislation would usher in an era where all customers would see lower power bills, resulting from competitive efficiencies rather than from a shifting of costs among other customer classes. All suppliers would be treated fairly during the transition to competition and reliability would be at least as good, or better, than now.

This is a tall order, and in fact, we have not yet discovered such a "perfect" solution. As we go forward, I will be especially watchful of residential and rural families who may lack market clout. Additionally, though some oppose "stranded cost recovery," it would not be right to expect suppliers who made investments under the current rules to be saddled with those costs in a fully-opened market without the reasonable ability to recover them.

1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT – 2 YEARS

EVA CLAYTON



Party: Democrat
Profession: Businesswoman
Education: B.S., Johnson C. Smith; M.S., N.C. Central University
Residence: Littleton
Government Experience: Chairperson, Warren County Board of Commissioners
Incumbency: Three 2-year terms
Committee Assignments: Agricultural and Budget

I support the measured and deliberate deregulation of the electricity industry. Competition is good, but not at the expense of rural customers. Previous deregulation of other industries such as aviation, cable television and telephone service has been a mixed blessing, but most often than not, the large commercial customers and the urban dwellers received the most benefit.

When deregulation occurs, it is essential that we look at the following three areas: consumer parity, shareholder parity and rural and/or low-income universal service guarantees. Any federal legislation must also address stranded cost recovery, market power and private use restrictions.

I will not accept changes that are dangerous to the stability of the American way of life. We must get beyond partisan politics and move to the high ground of principle—serving all Americans fairly.

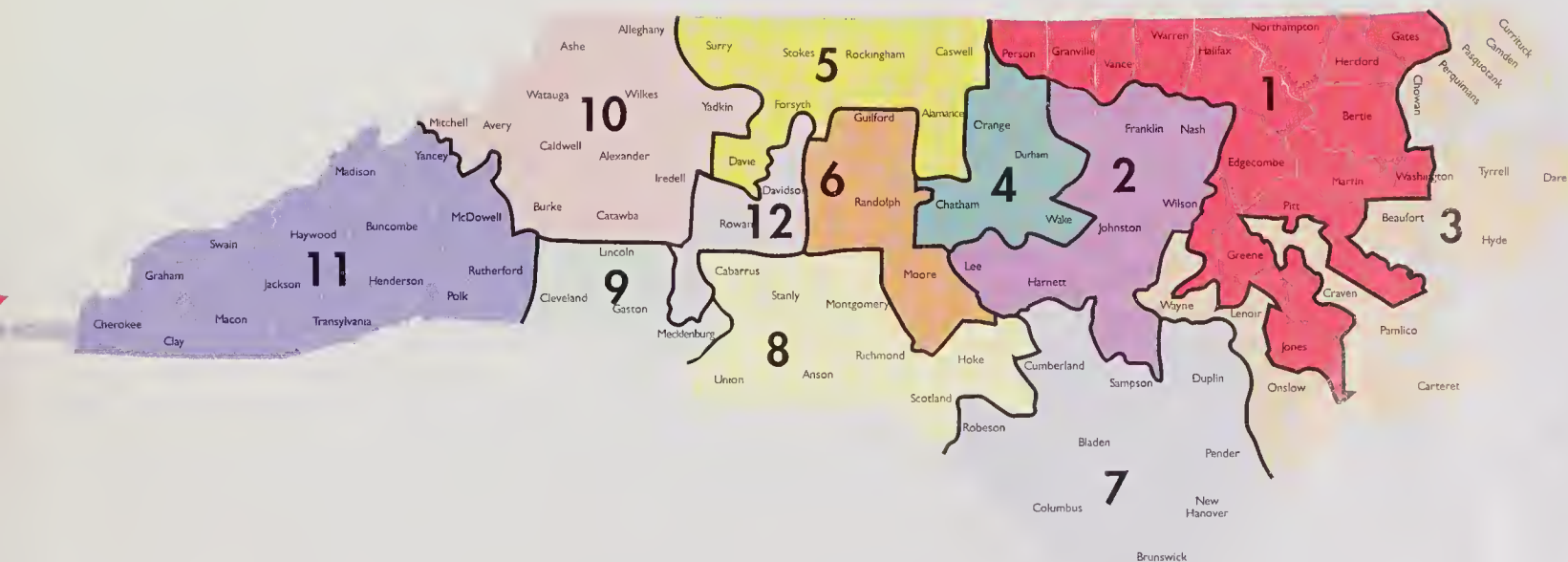
LINWOOD E. MERCER



Party: Democrat
Profession: Small Business Owner
Education: Attended UNC-Chapel Hill
Residence: Farmville
Government Experience: Mayor of Farmville; Chairman, Pitt County Board of Commissioners; Representative NC General Assembly, 8th House District (3 terms)

I was glad to support the REA position to formulate a study committee in the state legislature for the purpose of clear understanding of both the benefits and problems concerning deregulation of the electric utility industry.

At this point I would advocate a cautious approach to any decisions regarding deregulation at the state level. We have the unique opportunity to observe other states that have moved more quickly on this issue, and we should learn from both the errors those states make and any positive results they achieve.



TED TYLER



Party: Republican
Profession: Pharmaceutical Sales Manager
Education: B.A., Political Science, Wake Forest University
Residence: Rich Square
Government Experience: Rich Square Town Council (2 years); Mayor of Rich Square (10 years)

I see the possibility of some real problems with restructuring the electric utility industry. When an electric company offers very low rates to a big industrial account, will the residential and rural customers also get a low rate? Will that low rate to big customers cause residential and rural customers to pay more?

We all want cheap electricity, but most of all we want it when we need it. My position would be to keep big industrial customers from getting rates that would be paid in part by residential and rural customers.

2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT — 2 YEARS

BOB ETHERIDGE



Party: Democrat
Profession: United States Congressman
Education: B.S., Business, Campbell University; Graduate work in economics at N.C. State
Residence: Lillington
Government Experience: N.C. Superintendent of Public Instruction (1988-1996); N.C. General Assembly, 19th House District (1978-1988); Harnett County Commission (1972-1976)

Incumbency: First term

Committee Assignments: Agriculture, Science; Subcommittees: General Farm Commodities, Risk Management and Specialty Crops, Technology, Basic Research

The health of our rural communities is vital to our country and our state. Any deregulation plan must protect rural communities from the devastation that would be brought on by a lack of service, higher rates or poor quality, unreliable distribution, repair and maintenance systems.

Any deregulation plan must benefit consumers. Residential customers should not bare the burden of higher rates or lower savings to finance lower rates for industrial customers. All customers must have access to safe, affordable and reliable electric service regardless of where they choose to live or work; safety must not be compromised and environmental protections must be maintained. Finally, a consensus must be reached on "stranded investments" made by utilities who were obligated to serve all customers in a regulated environment.

3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT — 2 YEARS

WALTER B. JONES



Party: Republican
Profession: Member of Congress
Education: N.C. State; B.A., Atlantic Christian College
Residence: Farmville
Government Experience: N.C. General Assembly (10 years)
Incumbency: Two 2-year terms
Committee Assignments: Resources, National Security, Banking

There is a great deal of movement around the country toward greater competition in electric power generation. But it is important that any changes be made on a basis where everyone is better off than they currently are.

There are many particularly complex issues that are unique to electric utility restructuring that suggest a cautious approach. Therefore, each state should have the right to set its own time line for addressing the issue.

In North Carolina, we need to ensure that rural customers gain equally from any changes, and that utilities be allowed to recover any long term "stranded cost" investments during a transition to more competitive markets. We also

must make sure that there is a "level playing field" by allowing cooperatives to offer services comparable to those of other providers.

SHEPPARD NEAL MOORE



Party: Democrat
Profession: Environmental Scientist
Education: B.S., M.S., N.C. State; M.P.A., Georgia State
Residence: Jacksonville
Government Experience: USDA, EPA

I do not feel that the federal government should have a role in restructuring the electric utility industry. That is a role for the state utility commission.

JON WILLIAMS



Party: Democrat
Profession: Attorney
Education: B.A. & J.D., UNC-Chapel Hill
Residence: Goldsboro

While some form of deregulation of the electric industry is probably inevitable, I do not believe that it should be mandated by the federal government. We need to ensure the reliability of our supply and make sure that no segment of our population is unduly harmed in the transition. I would support a cautious but progressive approach to deregulation. We should closely monitor the effect of deregulation on states like California that have already begun the process.

4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT — 2 YEARS

DAVID PRICE



Party: Democrat
Profession: College Professor
Education: B.A., UNC-Chapel Hill; Ph.D., Yale
Residence: Chapel Hill
Incumbency: 1987-1995; 1997-present
Committee Assignments: Appropriations and Budget

The Energy Policy Act passed by Congress was the first step in deregulating the electric utility industry. Because of the complexity of deregulation at the retail level, and the number of regional, state and local interests involved, it will take a great deal of time to assess how further deregulation might be implemented. A number of states have begun experimenting with deregulation already, with mixed results. Other states, including North Carolina, have begun to seriously study the issue.

Before moving forward on a federal level, we should allow enough time to evaluate and learn from the experiences of other states. Our first priorities must include maintaining the reliability and quality of power distribution in our country, as well as assuring that any cost shifts resulting from deregulation not be borne by homeowners, small businesses, or rural consumers.

THOMAS H. ROBERG



Party: Republican
Profession: Computer Professional
Education: B.S., University of Illinois
Residence: Raleigh

Frankly, I have not studied the issue of restructuring the electric utility industry. It is fair to say, however, that in general I am for opening a wide range of markets to competition and believe, upon study, it is likely that I would feel so with regard to this specific industry. Further, I believe that the federal government already gets involved in too many issues and suggest that this one would be better handled on a state-by-state basis. This is an honest effort of telling you how I feel about most issues.

5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT — 2 YEARS

RICHARD BURR



Party: Republican
Profession: Businessman
Education: B.A., Communications, Wake Forest University
Residence: Winston-Salem
Incumbency: Two 2-year terms
Committee Assignments: Commerce, International Relations

As a member of the House Commerce Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, which has jurisdiction over electricity issues, I have been able to participate in over 20 hearings on the issue of electricity restructuring. I believe that it is important to note that this is an incredibly complex issue for North Carolinians and one that will not be resolved over night.

I have actively participated in this debate from the beginning. In the fall of 1997, I hosted a summit on electricity restructuring in Winston-Salem to hear what the citizens, business leaders, and electric cooperatives of North Carolina had to say on this subject. Over 900 North Carolinians attended that informative event.

Primarily, I believe that competition in the electricity industry is a good thing. I support removing federal barriers to competition and allowing the individual states to make decisions that are best for their consumers.

MIKE ROBINSON



Party: Democrat
Profession: Small business owner
Education: B.A., English & Communications, Elon College
Residence: Clemmons

Mike Robinson did not respond to Carolina Country's question concerning the restructuring of the electric utility industry.

6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT — 2 YEARS

HOWARD COBLE



Party: Republican
Profession: Attorney
Education: Appalachian State University, Guilford College, UNC School of Law
Residence: Greensboro
Government Experience: 4 terms in General Assembly, Secretary of N.C. Department of Revenue
Incumbency: Seven 2-year terms
Committee Assignments: Judiciary, Transportation and Infrastructure; Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property (Chairman)

Technological advancement and congressional initiatives have combined to encourage more competitiveness in the electric utilities industry. As several states have begun to initiate programs to expand further this burgeoning competition, Congress is assessing its own role in this discussion.

While the most important potential effect of energy restructuring is to lower the rates for residential and industrial consumers, there are still many other questions which must be answered. A major topic will be how to guarantee that rural, less-populated areas, where it is often more difficult and costly to provide electrical service, are still provided with inexpensive and reliable service.

It is important that electric cooperatives, utility companies, municipal providers, consumer groups and all interested parties are invited to participate in the electrical restructuring debate.

7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT — 2 YEARS

RANDY CROW



Party: Democrat
Profession: Real Estate and Investments
Education: B.A., Business Administration, Sam Houston State University
Residence: Wilmington

I am against the restructuring of the electric utility industry. The key to restructuring is the creation of an electric commodity exchange in New York that will trade all electricity. This exchange will get its monetary take before any electricity is sold to anyone. It's a complete communistic maneuver, as all competition will be eliminated. One communistic organization, the electric utility exchange, will control the market of all the electricity sold. The communists, Wall Street elitists, many of who are followers of Karl Heinrich Marx, are living to steal the world economy. This utility shakeup is beyond horrible and is like merger mania and the destruction of the tobacco farmer; its goal is for us all work for and to be owned lock, stock, and barrel by the communist filth on Wall Street or die.

MIKE MCINTYRE



Party: Democrat
Profession: Attorney-at-Law
Education: B.A. and J.D., UNC-Chapel Hill
Residence: Lumberton
Incumbency: One 2-year term
Committee Assignments: Agriculture, National Security

Although federal legislation to restructure the electric utility industry has been a topic of national debate, the U.S. House Commerce Committee chairman announced recently that he would discontinue his effort to pursue legislation in the 105th Congress to restructure the industry. It is clear that many members of Congress are concerned about moving too quickly on a complex issue with limited time remaining this year. In our own state, the Study Commission on the Future of Electric Service is still examining the cost, adequacy, availability, service and pricing structure within the industry, and their findings will be very helpful in determining the right course for North Carolina. Our rural electric cooperatives have much at stake, and I look forward to your input as we continue this debate in Congress.

8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT — 2 YEARS

ROBIN HAYES



Party: Republican
Profession: Owner and Operator, Mt. Pleasant Hosiery Mill
Education: B.A., History, Duke University
Residence: Concord
Government Experience: Republican candidate for N.C. Governor (1996); N.C. House of Representatives (1992-96, Majority Whip 1994-96)

Our ultimate goal in the utility industry should be to create an atmosphere that provides the best service at the least cost to the consumer. While "deregulation" would be a great benefit to many urban consumers in the northeast and Midwest, we must be careful that any restructuring of the industry does not have a negative impact on North Carolinians in general and rural consumers in particular. As the next Congressman from the 8th district, I will take these concerns and considerations into the debate on energy reform and deregulation.

MIKE TAYLOR



Party: Democrat
Profession: Lawyer
Education: B.A. and J.D., UNC-Chapel Hill; M.A. and Ph.D., Harvard University
Residence: New London
Government Experience: Attorney for various governmental units including the county of Stanly and Stanly County Airport Authority; Officer of the U.S. Navy; Second Lieutenant (JG) (1969-1971), one year in South Vietnam and Cambodia

Major electrical utility companies should not be allowed to charge large users reduced rates that do not pass along the social costs of providing electrical utility service to rural areas. The result will be an unfair two-tiered system that will unfairly impact rural working families and small town businesses with higher utility rates.

9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT — 2 YEARS

SUE MYRICK



Party: Republican
Profession: Member, U.S. House of Representatives
Education: Heidelberg College
Residence: Charlotte
Government Experience: Mayor of Charlotte 1987-91; Charlotte City Council 1983-85
Incumbency: Two 2-year terms
Committee Assignments: Rules and Organization of the House

I support electric utilities because I believe that fair competition lowers prices, improves service and spurs innovation. However, any federal legislation to restructure the electric utility industry must, among other things, ensure that all retail customers benefit, require protections against market power abuses and protect those who have invested in power facilities and transmission lines so they are not punished for making prudent investment decisions based on current laws. Legislation should also not disrupt universal access and include strong consumer protection provisions. I believe that if the country could more efficiently use its power generating capacity and lower its energy costs, America would have a greater competitive advantage in the world market and more jobs would be created.

10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT — 2 YEARS

CASS BALLENGER



Party: Republican
Profession: Manufacturer
Education: B.A., Amherst
Residence: Hickory
Government Experience: N.C. Senate (1976-86), N.C. House (1974-1976), N.C. County Commissioner
Incumbency: Seven 2-year terms
Committee Assignments: International Relations, Education and Workforce

The effort to restructure the electric utility industry is as large and as complex an issue as I have dealt with since coming to Congress. While I believe that introducing competition to the electric industry would greatly benefit both household and industrial consumers in terms of cost per kilowatt-hour, I also believe it would create problems for many suppliers. Settling the multitude of these issues in any legislation will certainly be a challenge. But, I can assure you that I will work with my colleagues to help enact a viable bill that will meet the needs of everyone involved.



11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT — 2 YEARS

CHARLES H. TAYLOR



Party: Republican
Profession: Tree Farmer
Education: B.A. and J.D., Wake Forest University
Residence: Brevard
Government Experience: State House, 3 terms; State Senate, 1 term.
Incumbency: Four 2-year terms
Committee Assignments: Appropriations; Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary; Interior; District of Columbia

Any proposed deregulation of the electric utility industry must have, as its focus, the protection of the consumer. Competition among electricity providers serves no valuable purpose unless it lowers prices and provides better services. This is especially true in western North Carolina, where many consumers are already well served by community-oriented cooperatives.

Presently, the only customers who enjoy preferential rates in dealing with the electric utilities are large industries. Because many of these businesses can self-generate power or shift operations to states that enjoy lower energy costs, they can exercise bargaining power with the electric utilities.

The purpose of deregulation is to spread this 'leverage' to every consumer, by introducing a degree of competition among electricity producers and providers. When forced to compete, electric utilities will seek to lower their prices while constantly improving their service. This is the goal.

DAVID YOUNG



Party: Democrat
Profession: Travel Agency Owner
Education: B.A., UNC-Chapel Hill
Residence: Asheville
Government Experience: Buncombe County Commissioner (1992-present)

I am opposed to the utility deregulation schemes now being discussed at the federal and state level. I am always interested in stimulating the kind of vigorous competition that leads to better prices and service for consumers across the board. But current utility "deregulation" proposals would result in cheaper prices only for a select few, higher prices for everyone else, and greatly diminished or even discontinued service for many groups of people. In particular, these deregulation schemes would result in significantly higher costs and unacceptable downgrading of service for rural consumers.

I understand the crucial role that rural electric cooperatives perform for many consumers in my region. I cannot support any proposal that would imperil the existence of rural electricity cooperatives and leave rural electricity consumers out in the cold.

12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT — 2 YEARS

MELVIN L. WATT



Party: Democrat
Profession: Lawyer
Education: B.S., UNC; J.D., Yale Law School
Residence: Charlotte
Government Experience: N.C. State Senate (1986-87)
Incumbency: Three 2-year terms
Committee Assignments: Banking and Finance Services, Judiciary

Electric utility deregulation is a serious issue that requires deliberate study. I recognize the state's responsibility and I support the study commission that was formed to gather information and work toward a solution. Although I am not on the congressional committee that oversees this, I look forward to the commission's report and will work with the North Carolina Congressional delegation to protect rural and low-income people. This is a complex issue that will require constituents to be involved. I welcome your comments.



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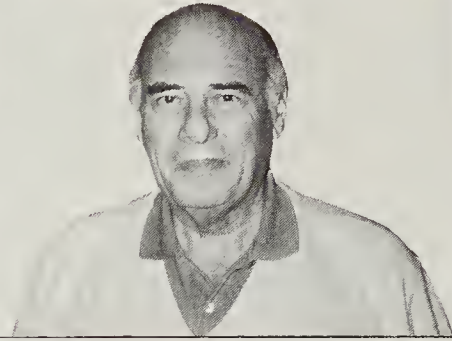
LOSES 30 POUNDS



"I dropped 30 pounds so fast it scared me!"

J.G., Sivley, IL

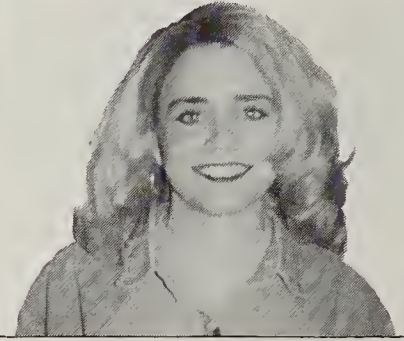
LOSES 97 POUNDS



"I went down to 183 from 280... I feel and look different."

V.S., Meridian, MS

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Z.L., Pensacola, FL

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Making cents of your electric bill

by James Dulley

Vacuums that help allergies

If you have allergies, especially to household pets, mold and dust mites, it is difficult not to have problems in an energy efficient, air-tight house. Many common allergen particles are relatively large, so they puff up when you sit on a chair and quickly settle down again.

For this reason, running your furnace/air-conditioner blower continuously, so the filter cleans the air, is not really very effective. Unless you have a new super efficient variable-speed blower motor (ICM or ECM), running the furnace blower continuously can really drive up your electric bills.

If you ever notice that telltale "just vacuumed" smell after cleaning, then your vacuum cleaner may be a significant source of your allergy problems. This smell is just the same dust, dirt and allergens that it sucks out of the carpet and furniture, blowing back out into the room air again.

Some of the super-powerful, microfiltration vacuum cleaners help alleviate allergies. I have used several models in my own home and they have made a difference in my allergies. These are available at vacuum cleaner shops, but not discount department stores.

Allergy-safe vacuum cleaners do have very powerful motors that draw a lot of electricity. But since they deep clean so well and keep the dust trapped inside the bag, you have to vacuum less often and for less time, thus using less electricity than your current vacuum. Also, with deep cleaning, the carpeting will last longer with less wear.

The EPA has begun investigating the ill health effects of microscopic indoor air particles, which are inhaled and lodge deeply in the lung tissues. Very fine household dust and the carbon dust from the vacuum cleaner motor itself, are of particular concern in airtight efficient houses.

There have recently been many vacuum cleaners touted by manufacturers as being "allergy-safe," "microfiltration,"

"HEPA," "HEPA-like," etc. Some are effective and some are not. With the best models, that just-vacuumed smell is totally eliminated.

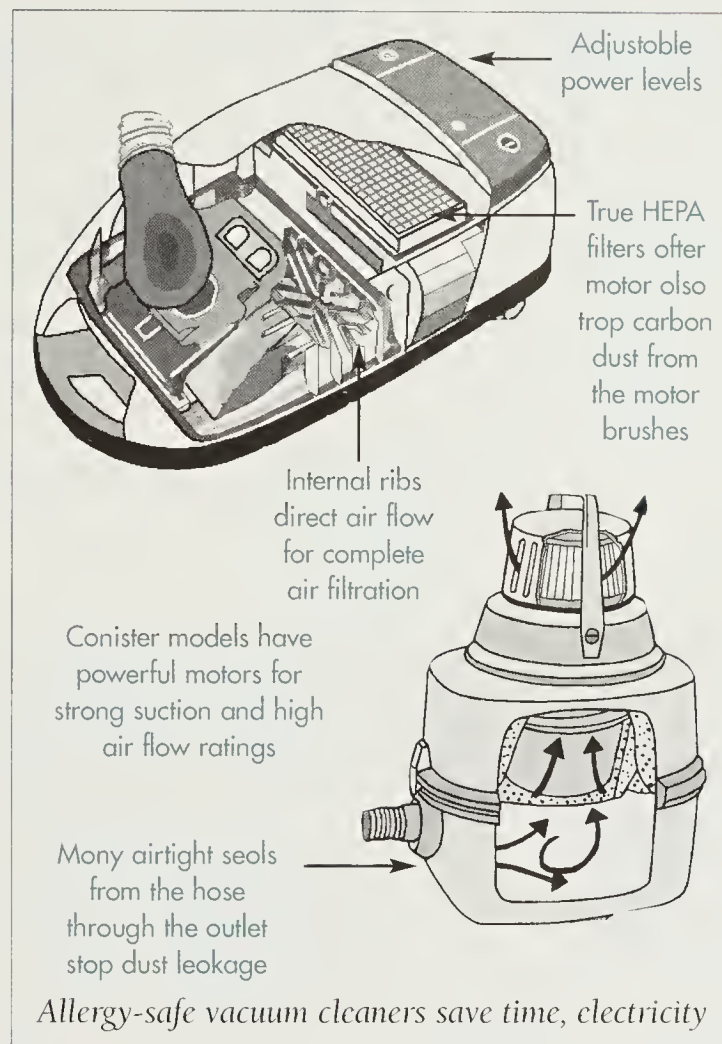
An effective allergy-safe vacuum cleaner must do three things: 1) be very powerful to draw up all dirt and allergens, 2) have an effective filtering system to remove these particles, and 3) be airtight throughout to make sure that the smallest particles do not leak back out into the room.

Don't pay attention to marketing hype like "Peak Horsepower." The deep cleaning power of a vacuum is determined by the suction and, more important, airflow rate in cubic feet per minute (cfm). Canister designs such as White Pearl and White/Red Star, are most powerful, with air flow rates as high as 125 cfm, are typically more powerful than upright designs.

The best vacuum cleaner designs use a series of filters and airflow patterns inside the vacuum cleaner. True HEPA (high efficiency particle air) filters meet rigid testing standards. HEPA air cleaners were first designed for hospital operating rooms. Check the user manual before buying a vacuum cleaner for the type of filters used.

True-HEPA models remove 99.97 percent of particles as small as 1/300th the diameter of a human hair. Some "HEPA-like" filters are effective too, but you must rely on the manufacturer's judgment, not certified test results. Look for models with a true-HEPA exhaust filter located after the motor, not in front of it. This also filters out the carbon brush dust.

Some features to consider are variable or multi-step adjustable power for cleaning drapes, rugs, etc. A model with a large bag, some up to 14 quarts, requires fewer dusty bag changes. This is a significant source of



dust. Open the bag access door to check for gaskets and wiggle it to check its rigidity.

If you are concerned about odors in your house, look for a model with an optional charcoal filter. This will help a little, but don't expect too much benefit. If you have a two-story house, consider the weight of the unit and if the attachments are stored inside it.

Write for Utility Bills Update No. 550 - buyer's guide of 11 true HEPA and HEPA-like allergy-safe vacuum cleaners, cleaning power, filtration methods, bag size, features, weights and prices. Please include \$2 and business-size, self-addressed stamped envelope and mail to:

James Dulley, Carolina Country, P.O. Box 54987, Cincinnati, OH 45254.

To instantly download the material or to read previous columns, see the Web site at www.dulley.com.

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The GHOST who wants to go COON HUNTING

and other Scarrie Tales of the Uwharrie Mountains

by Fred T. Morgan



and talked to “witnesses.” They described this Big Black Thang as faintly luminous and variously shaped from the size of a poodle to Big Foot. And it floated! But I never saw it — one of many Uwharrie mysteries I never solved.

An intriguing aura shrouds the Uwharries in central North Carolina. These mountains invite, then tease, then baffle. They grow on you and beckon you like a new friend with a captivating personality, like a gripping who-dun-it whose mystery lingers and piques. I have lived amid and roamed through these mountains with the ancient

The dried-up old farmer in dirty overalls looked more like an elf or gnome than a real person. He jerked his straw-hatted head toward a woods road leading into a distant hillside in the Uwharrie Mountains. His voice twanged with sinister overtones.

“Over that-a-way. Through them woods. Down the ‘tother side. When you cross the creek, start a-lookin’ on your right. That’s where folks has seen this Big Black Thang!”

I went. I looked. I drove back and forth, stopped, got out and walked about. I came back to the site, once at night,

halo for most of a lifetime without learning half their secrets. It’s not likely anyone ever will, though I plan to keep on a-roaming.

I’ve learned that when it concerns Uwharrie ghostliness, it’s sort of like the frantic tramp said when he ran headlong miles down a trail to escape a fearsome ghost and slumped on a log to catch his breath, only to look around and see the same ghost calmly standing there complimenting him on his sprinting ability. “Buddy, you ain’t seen nuttin’ yit!”

The Ghost Who Wants To Go Coon Hunting

There's the skeletonized ghost of an old coon hunter who may knock on your door almost any night and beckon for you to follow him and his ghostly hound, Ol' Scatter, into the big woods. If you choose to follow, this ghostly pair will lead you to the tree which, in real life, the man climbed to claim a coon, got trapped and died. His body hung up there for months until buzzards picked the carcass clean. We call him The Ghost Who Wants To Go Coon Hunting.

Trojan

Somewhere in these ancient hills, the natives used to say, roams an ageless wild man named Trojan, sired by sorcery and born supernaturally to a witch. He rambles endlessly with his animal friends and screeches terrifyingly at the moon. You may encounter him in the form of a big, round black mass with weird locomotion, which can engulf any creature or object it touches. Such ingested objects never reappear. A few revengeful hunters are determined to toss a few sticks of short-fused dynamite into the mass—if they ever get close enough.

The Ghost Who Practices Dying

Listen closely on the stillest and blackest of nights and you may hear the anguished sounds of the Ghost Who Practices Dying. Occupants of an ancient log home in the Uwharries said the moaning-groaning-shrieking started about bedtime, always coming from under the bed against the outside wall. During several minutes the noise intensifies into ragged breathing, gasping, choking and desperate struggling, followed by heel-rapping on the floor and the death rattle in the throat. In a little while, the performance starts all over again. No one has ever explained this mystery. However, one occupant reported an ominous sign. On the wallboards over the bed, a pine knot had oozed resin downward into the curious shape of a hangman's noose.

The Ghost Who Swallows Men

If you are of Yankee descent, never travel on or near an old wagon road through the Uwharries because you are likely to meet The Ghost Who Swallows Men. One encounter is all it takes. This ghost still has an appetite for Yankees. He swallows them whole, along with their vehicles. This ghost originated in Civil War days when plundering Yankee soldiers mistreated members of a Uwharrie plantation homestead. A loyal black man swore revenge before he was killed while trying to protect the women. For decades, the black man's descendants displayed a barn log with five notches hacked into the side—five Yankee ex-soldier victims, none of whom ever emerge from their swallowed oblivion.

Bluebeard

For sheer carnage, few ghosts can match Bluebeard of the Uwharries, who used a shiny, slim knitting needle to murder his seven wives. The same knitting needle took Bluebeard's own life at the end. Before he was buried, someone pulled this knitting needle from his heart and apparently kept it. This act has infuriated the ghost of this early psychopath. He wants his knitting needle returned. So, every night throughout central North Carolina, Bluebeard's ghost visits one or more households searching for his needle. Not if, but when this ghost is reunited with his long-lost knitting needle, immediately, the first thing he will do is look for a fresh, quivering heart to puncture.

The Uwharrie Firecoal

If you like to go camping in the Uwharries, please be careful with outdoor fires. And not just for wildfire reasons. A ghostly, unquenchable firecoal has roamed these hills for hundreds of years. Frequently, it seeks out a larger campfire to merge with for renewal. That's when the trouble starts. After the campers turn in and the campfire dwindles, this evil firecoal transforms into a fiery monster who leaps up and out in slashing, hatchet-tipped tongues of flame to chop off the feet of sleepers. It's apt to infect any campfire anywhere in the Uwharries.

What is it about the Uwharries?

Pronounced "u-whar-ee," the name, according to William S. Powell's *Gazetteer*, may derive from Suala, a name De Soto assigned to Indians he found in this region in the 1530s. John Lawson, visiting in 1701, used the term Heighwaree.

What and where are the Uwharries? What are the attractions? What's so special about this 8-county Uwharrie area? What does it offer? How will it change in the future? How available is land for industry, business, developments, private housing, hideaways?

Yadkin-Pee Dee Lakes Project has the answers. It's by far the most aggressive group yet formed to promote this area. And promotes it does.

Established in 1994, the Lakes Project exists to promote responsible economic growth and tourism, balanced with environment stewardship. Issues range from the extension of the Uwharrie Hiking Trail (already the longest in the eastern half of N.C.) to the secret of the Uwharries' 'accessible isolation' and why the Uwharrie area is becoming "North Carolina's Central Park." A recent achievement is the 30-minute film, "From This Earth: The Yadkin-Pee Dee Lakes Region," produced with help from the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation.

The project has a growing membership of individuals and organizations. Its office is in historic Badin, Stanly County. Visit the Lakes Project on the Web site: www.uwharrie.com

For membership information or a copy of the video "From This Earth" (send \$6), contact Yadkin-Pee Dee Lakes Project, PO Box 338, Badin, NC 28009. Phone: 704-422-3215.

Fred T. Morgan worked more than 30 years as feature editor with the Stanly News & Press and is author of "Ghost Tales of the Uwharries" (John F. Blair, Publishers) and "Haunted Uwharries" (Down Home Press). He lives in Albemarle.





Carolina close-up

Compiled by Renee Gannon

Carolina Renaissance Festival has its own village

The fifth annual Carolina Renaissance Festival opens Oct. 3 for seven weekends, Saturdays and Sundays, through November 15. The festival takes visitors back to a 16th century European village.

The event occurs at a theme park featuring multiple stages and ongoing entertainment throughout the streets. Performing are 300 costumed characters, including 100 skilled craftsmen working with pottery, leather and metal; human-powered games and rides for all ages; jousting tournaments; food and refreshments.

The festival's 15-acre village off I-85 exit 52 north of Charlotte. Advance admission, \$10 for adults and \$4 for children ages 5-12, is available at Harris Teeter stores in the region. Children under 5 are admitted free. Tickets purchased at the gate are \$1 more. Gates open at 10 a.m. Call (704) 896-5544 in Charlotte, (919) 828-9928 in Raleigh, or (336) 727-9909 in the Triad; or write to: Carolina Renaissance Festival, 107 North Main St., P.O. Box 165, Davidson, NC 28036.

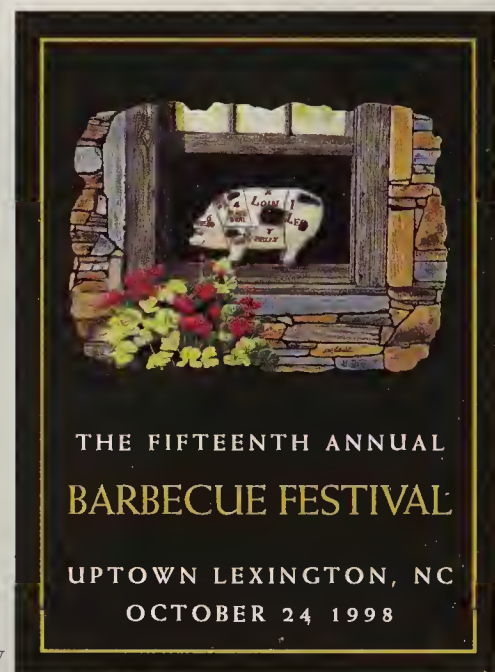


15th N.C. Barbecue Festival on Oct. 24

October is officially barbecue month in North Carolina, and more than 100,000 people are expected to visit Lexington for the 15th annual Barbecue Festival on Saturday, Oct. 24. The all-day festival includes arts and crafts, entertainment, a parade of pigs, a fun run and more than 14,000 pounds of chopped pork. An additional 40,000 pounds of Lexington-style barbecue probably will be served the same day in area restaurants.

The festival has recently been named one of the top 10 food festivals in America by Travel and Leisure magazine, and one of the Southeast Tourism Society's Top 20 Events for October 1998.

The official festival poster, by acclaimed Lexington artist Bob Timberlake, may be purchased by mailing a check payable to the Barbecue Festival for \$23 (includes shipping) to: The Barbecue Festival, P.O. Box 1642, Lexington, NC 27293. For additional festival and poster information, call (336) 956-1880, or visit the web site at www.barbecuefestival.com.



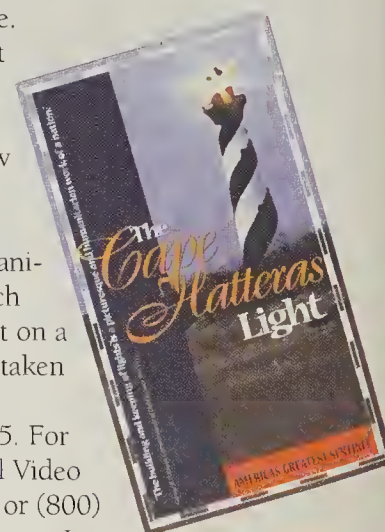
"Cape Hatteras Light" places lighthouse history on videotape

"The Cape Hatteras Light: America's Greatest Sentinel" reviews the 200-year history of lighthouses at Cape Hatteras. The video examines the history surrounding the tallest brick lighthouse in the world and the frequent predictions of its demise.

Also documented are the earliest attempts to construct lighthouses at Cape Hatteras and at the fringes of Diamond Shoals 10 miles offshore, how materials were delivered and how shipwrecks and sickness caused delays and hardships during construction. Computer animation shows the original lighthouse, which was doomed from the start after being built on a natural dune, moved twice and eventually taken by the sea.

The 75-minute video retails for \$24.95. For more information, or to place an order, call Video Marketing Group, Inc., at (919) 845-9244 or (800) 647-3536, or write to: Video Marketing Group, Inc., P.O. Box 19665, Raleigh, NC 27619.

The WUNC-TV public television network will broadcast the documentary on Oct. 12.



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Mountains (west of I-85)

Halloween Festival
Through Oct. 31,
Blowing Rock

**Tweetsie Railroad's
"Ghost Train,"**
weekends, nightly
Oct. 23-31,
(800) 526-5740

Olde Time Days
Oct. 2-3, Burnsville
(704) 682-4505

High Country Quilt Show
Oct. 2-3, Maggie Valley
Community Center,
(800) 334-9036

**Mountain Home
Music Concert**
Oct. 3, Blowing Rock
Arts Center,
(828) 264-8118

Arts & Crafts
Oct. 2-4, Highlands
Sassafras Gap Campground,
(704) 526-3181

Art in the Park
Oct. 3, Blowing Rock
American Legion grounds,
(828) 295-7851

Classic Judo Tournament
Oct. 3, Waynesville
Recreation Center,
(800) 334-9036

Forest Festival Day
Oct. 3, Pisgah Forest
Cradle of Forestry,
(828) 884-5713

Guided Bird Walk
Oct. 4, Chimney Rock
Chimney Rock Park,
9 a.m., (800) 277-9611

Fall Foliage Peak
Oct. 5-11, Linville
Grandfather Mountain,
(800) 4MT-PEAK

**9th Annual Leaf
Lookers Gemboree**
Oct. 8-11, Franklin
Gem show,
(888) 510-GEMS

Frog Level Antique Show
Oct. 9-11, Waynesville
Recreation Center,
(800) 334-9036

Molasses Festival
Oct. 10, Granite Falls
At Sims Country Bar-B-Que,
(828) 396-5811

Pig Pickin'
Oct. 10, Triplett
Benefits local fire department,
(828) 264-8088

Mountain Glory Festival
Oct. 10, Marion
(828) 652-3551

Highlanders Festival
Oct. 10, Radford, Va.
(540) 831-5182

**North Hominy
Apple Festival**
Oct. 10, Canton
Community Center,
(800) 334-9036

Colonial Living Day
Oct. 11, Statesville
Fort Dobbs, 1 p.m.,
(704) 873-5866

Fall Celebration of Arts
Oct. 11-17, Burnsville
Mayland Community College,
(800) 948-1632

Fall Color Gospel Singing
Oct. 11-12 & 17-18, Candler
Hominy Valley Singing Park,
(828) 667-8502

Art & Craft Show
Oct. 15, Waynesville
Main Street, (800) 334-9036

Fall Craft Fair
Oct. 15-18, Asheville
Asheville Civic Center,
(828) 298-7928

Lake Eden Arts Festival
Oct. 16-18, Black Mountain
Camp Rockmont,
(828) 68-MUSIC

**Hillbilly Comedy
& Variety Show**
Oct. 17, Sparta
Sparta Elementary School
auditorium, (336) 372-7284

Apple Festival
Oct. 17, Waynesville
Main Street, (800) 334-9036

Valle Country Fair
Oct. 17, Valle Crucis
Apple Barn at the Valle Crucis
Conference Center,
(800) 852-9506

Arts & Crafts Fall Festival
Oct. 17-18, Maggie Valley
Community Center,
(704) 926-8021

**Blue Ridge Arts
& Crafts Festival**
Oct. 17-18, 24-25,
Lake Junaluska
Haywood County
Fairgrounds, (800) 334-9036

Autumn in the Park
Oct. 17-18, Barium Springs
Duke Power State Park,
(704) 873-8076

Christmas Fair
Oct. 23-24, Boone
Agricultural Conference
Center, (828) 264-3061

Fall Harvest Days
Oct. 23-25, Arden
Western N.C. Ag Center,
(704) 891-3223

Apple Festival
Oct. 24, Boone
Hickory Ridge Homestead,
Horn in the West grounds,
(888) 825-6747

Halloween Celebration
Oct. 29, Boone
Appalachian Cultural
Museum, (828) 262-3117

Octoberfest
Oct. 30, Canton
Downtown, (800) 334-9036

Guided Nature Walk
Oct. 31, Chimney Rock
Chimney Rock Park, 1 p.m.,
(800) 277-9611

**Clogging Hall of Fame
Competition**
Oct. 31-Nov. 1, Maggie Valley
Stompin' Grounds,
(800) 334-9036

Piedmont (between I-85 & I-95)

Piedmont Craftsmen Exhibit
Through Oct. 17, Asheboro
N.C. Zoological Park's
Stedman Education Center,
(800) 488-0444

Life of Christ
Through Oct. 24,
Fort Mill, S.C.
Drama, Fridays & Saturdays,
King's Arena at Regency Park,
(888) 437-7473

Farm Women Exhibit
Through Nov. 14,
Walnut Cove
Walnut Cove Public Library,
(336) 593-8159

Renaissance Festival
Through Nov. 15, Davidson
Weekends, (704) 896-5555

Take Another Look
Through Jan. 3, Durham
N.C. Museum of Life and
Science, (919) 220-5429

African Pottery & Sculpture
Through Feb. 14, Charlotte
Mint Museum of Art,
(704) 337-2000

Octoberfest International
Oct. 1-11, Fort Bragg
Fort Bragg Fairgrounds,
(910) 396-3919

Ray Boltz Concert
Oct. 2, Fayetteville
Crown Coliseum,
(910) 323-5088

High School Rodeo
Oct. 2-3, Marshville
Bar L Arena, (704) 624-6487

**Autumn Leaves
Wagon Train**
Oct. 2-8, Mount Airy
Different routes each day,
9 a.m., (336) 789-9797

Dixie Classic Fair
Oct. 2-11, Winston-Salem
(336) 727-2236

**Mint Museum Antiques
Show & Sale**
Oct. 2-4, Charlotte
Charlotte Merchandise Mart,
(704) 337-2095

**Big Pumpkin Weigh
Off & Festival**

Oct. 3, Mooresville
8 a.m. (704) 662-3336

Seagrove Pottery Auction

Oct. 3, Southern Pines
Benefits Hospice Foundation,
Covington House,
(910) 215-6009

Antiques Fair

Oct. 3, Cameron
Historic district,
(910) 245-7001

Autumnfest & Road Race

Oct. 3, Southern Pines
Downtown street fair,
(910) 692-2463

**Confederate Camp
Re-enactment**

Oct. 3-4, Durham
Bennett Place, 10 a.m.,
(919) 383-4345

Oaks Storytelling Festival

Oct. 3, Wake Forest
South White Street parking lot
downtown, (919) 554-1972

C&E Gun and Knife Show

Oct. 3-4, Fayetteville
Expo Center, (910) 323-5088

JEB Stuart Birthplace Event

Oct. 3-4, Laurel Hill, Va.
Civil War battle re-enactments,
(336) 374-5637

Wake Forest

Community Expo

Oct. 6, Wake Forest
Ledford Center, Southeastern
Baptist Theological Seminary, 2
p.m., (919) 556-1519

Children's Hour

Oct. 8-11, Winston-Salem
Drama at Reynolda House,
(336) 725-5325

Southern Ideal Home Show

Oct. 9-11, Charlotte
Charlotte Merchandise Mart,
(704) 376-6594

Drag Racing Finals

Oct. 9-11, Rockingham
All Harley Drag Racing
Association, Rockingham
Dragway, (910) 582-3400

Steamfest

Oct. 10, Spencer
N.C. Transportation Museum,
(704) 636-2889

Stew Day

Oct. 10, Reidsville
Chinqua-Penn Plantation,
(336) 349-4576

Great Pumpkin Contest

Oct. 10, Raleigh
State Farmers Market,
(919) 733-7417

Festival of the Autumn Moon

Oct. 10, Hillsborough
Old Burwell School, historic
district, (919) 732-5741

Zoo Walk

Oct. 10, Asheboro
Walk-a-thon, N.C. Zoological
Park, (800) 488-0444

US Military Collectibles

Oct. 10, Fayetteville
Expo Center, (910) 323-5088

People Fest

Oct. 10, Wadesboro
(704) 694-5381

Beef Earth Roast

Oct. 10, Warrenton
Warren County
Fairgrounds/Lions Den,
(252) 257-2140

Historic Home Tours

Oct. 10-11, Salisbury
(704) 636-0103

Heritage Festival

Oct. 10-11, Asheboro
N.C. Zoological Park,
(800) 488-0444

Fiesta Hispana

Oct. 11, Winston-Salem
Reynolda House,
(336) 725-5325

Walk for Hope

Oct. 11, Raleigh
Umstead State Park,
(919) 781-9255

Colonial Living Week

Oct. 12-16, Burlington
Alamance Battleground, 9 a.m.,
(910) 227-4785

Patsy!

Oct. 15, Winston-Salem
Tribute to Patsy Cline, Stevens
Center, N.C. School of the Arts,
(336) 721-1945

**WIDU Gospel Anniversary
Concert**

Oct. 16-17, Fayetteville
Crown Coliseum,
(910) 323-5088

Fall Festival

Oct. 17, Seagrove
Westmoore School, 11 a.m.,
pottery auction, 8 p.m.,
(910) 464-3401

Old-Time Square Dance

Oct. 17, Denton
Denton Civic Center,
(336) 475-9397

Bluegrass/Gospel Concert

Oct. 17, Albemarle
Stanly County Agri-Civic
Center, 7 p.m., (704) 485-8833

European Car Festival

Oct. 17, Winston-Salem
Reynolda House,
(336) 725-5325

Cornshucking Frolic

Oct. 17, Pinnacle
Horne Creek Farm,
(910) 325-2298

Antique Car Show

Oct. 17, Spencer
N.C. Transportation Museum,
(704) 636-2889

Holly Arts and Crafts Festival

Oct. 17, Pinehurst
Village of Pinehurst,
(910) 295-5524

Fiddler on the Roof

Oct. 23, Winston-Salem
Stevens Center, N.C. School of
the Arts, (336) 721-1945

Grace & Glorie

Oct. 23-Nov. 8, Sanford
Comedy-drama at Temple
Theatre, (919) 774-4512

Heirloom Discovery Day

Oct. 24, Charlotte
Appraisals offered, Mint
Museum of Art,
(704) 366-2504

Boo at the Zoo

Oct. 24-25, Asheboro
N.C. Zoological Park,
(800) 488-0444

Craft Fair

Oct. 24-25, Roxboro
Christmas theme, Northern
Middle School, (336) 599-1195

Fall Pottery Festival

Oct. 25, Greensboro
Downtown Farmers' Curb
Market, (336) 574-3547

Edgar Allan Poe Reading

Oct. 29, Winston-Salem
Reynolda House, 7 p.m.,
(336) 725-5325

**Bloody Reign of the
Mad Miner**

Oct. 29-31, Stanfield
Tour of "haunted" Reed Gold
Mine, (704) 721-4653

Halloween Haunt

Oct. 30, Southern Pines
Train House, Campbell House,
5-7 p.m., (910) 692-2463

A Thousand Clowns

Oct. 30, Nov. 4-7,
Southern Pines
Comedy, Owens Auditorium,
Sandhills Community College,
(910) 692-3799

Creepy Chemistry Day

Oct. 31, Durham
Includes "It's electric!" N.C.
Museum of Life and Science,
(919) 220-5429

Community Camp-Ins

Oct. 30-31, Durham
N.C. Museum of Life and
Science, (919) 220-5429

Children's Sample Sale

Oct. 31, Fayetteville
Expo Center, (910) 323-5088

West Side Story

Nov. 3, Winston-Salem
Stevens Center, N.C. School of
the Arts, (336) 721-1945

Holiday Crafts Fair

Nov. 5-6, Fort Bragg
Lee Physical Fitness Center,
(910) 396-3919

Golf Chorus Extravaganza

Nov. 7, Southern Pines
Barbershop quartet music,
Pinecrest High School auditori-
um, (910) 295-2197

**Doc & Richard Watson
Concert**

Nov. 7, Mocksville
Brock Performing Arts Center,
7 p.m. & 9 p.m., (336) 751-3304

**Coastal Plains
(east of I-95)**

Hats Off!!!

Through Dec. 7, Wilmington
Salutes headgear of all shapes,
Cape Fear Museum,
(910) 341-4350

Doll Collection Exhibit

Through Jan. 3, Elizabeth City
Museum of the Albemarle,
(252) 335-1453

Looking Back: Cape Fear Museum's First 100 Years
Through February, Wilmington
Cape Fear Museum,
(910) 341-4350

Fair and Parade
Oct. 3, Garland
(910) 529-4121

Gates County Swampfest
Oct. 3, Gatesville
Gates County Community
Center, 10 a.m.

Flea Market and Auction
Oct. 3, Murfreesboro
Historic District, (252) 398-5922

NC Seafood Festival
Oct. 2-4, Morehead City
On waterfront, (252) 726-6273

Harvest Tour
Oct. 6-7, Murfreesboro
(919) 398-5922

Simmons Day
Oct. 9, Wilmington
Celebrating Simmons sea skiff,
Cape Fear Museum,
(910) 341-4350

Chrysanthemum Festival
Oct. 9-11, New Bern
Historic downtown, Tryon
Palace gardens open free,
(800) 767-1560

Currituck Craft Fair
Oct. 10-11, Barco
Currituck Middle School,
10 a.m., (919) 232-2261

Octoberfest Concert
Oct. 17, Rose Hill
Jim Aycock and Carol Ann
Tucker, Duplin Winery,
(800) 774-9634

Bats
Oct. 17, Wilmington
Cape Fear Museum,
(910) 341-4350

Doll/Teddy Bear Show & Sale
Oct. 17, Greenville
National Guard Armory,
10 a.m., (252) 746-4081

1898—The Riots
Oct. 18, Wilmington
Wilmington race riots examined,
Cape Fear Museum,
(910) 341-4350

Art Exhibit
Oct. 19-25, Sanford
National Guard Armory, free
Colonial Living History Days
Oct. 21-22, Edenton
Historic Edenton,
(919) 482-2637

Historic Ghost Walk
Oct. 23-24, Elizabeth City
5 p.m.-9 p.m., \$10,
(888) 936-7387

"Roaring 20s" Ghost Walk
Oct. 23-24, New Bern
5 p.m.-9 p.m., \$11,
(252) 638-8558

40th Albemarle Craftsman's Fair
Oct. 23-25, Elizabeth City
Knobbs Creek Recreation Center,
(252) 482-7542

BBQ & Chili Cookoff
Oct. 24, Washington
Waterfront and Main St.,
(252) 975-1691

Cotton Pickin' Time
Oct. 24, Fremont
Charles B. Aycock Birthplace,
1 p.m., (919) 242-5581

Lord Cornwallis
Oct. 24, New Bern
Performance at Tryon Palace,
(800) 767-1560
"Blithe Spirit"
Oct. 29-Nov. 1, Lumberton
Robeson Little Theatre at the
Carolina Civic Center,
(910) 738-4339

African-American Fall Festival
Nov. 7, Murfreesboro
Hertford County Middle School,
10 a.m., (252) 398-8192

Fort Branch Battle Re-enactment
Nov. 7-8, Hamilton
Civil War re-enactment,
(800) 776-8566

Quilt Show
Nov. 7-8, Wilson
Wilson County Ag Center

Deadlines:
Dec. . . . Oct. 26

Send notices to:
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Raleigh, NC 27611
email:
carolina.country@ncemcs.com

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Bob Timberlake

"Ray's Place"

The Bob Timberlake® Gallery is pleased to offer Bob Timberlake's most recent offset lithographic reproduction entitled "Ray's Place." This beautiful reproduction will be available in a time-limited edition with orders being accepted from September 14 through November 7, 1998.

The image area of "Ray's Place" is 17" x 25" on 100% rag stock measuring 22 1/4" x 29 1/2". Issue price is \$250.00 plus \$10.00 shipping. (NC residents add 6% sales tax of \$15.00.) The size of the edition will be determined at the end of the reservation period. To reserve your reproduction of this very special release please contact:



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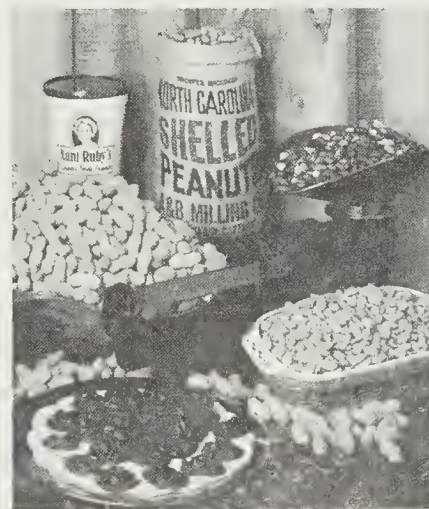
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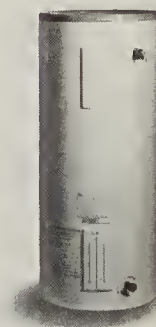
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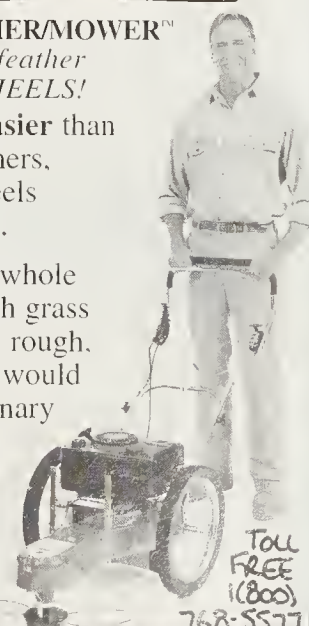
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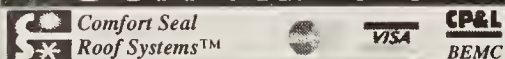
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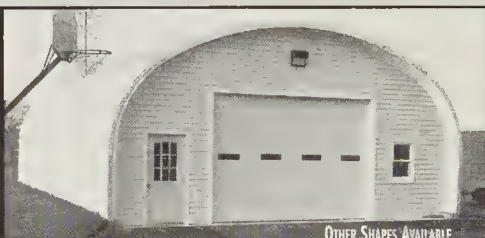


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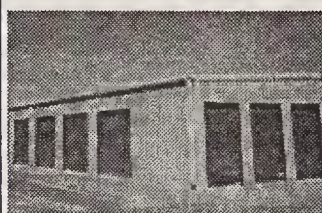
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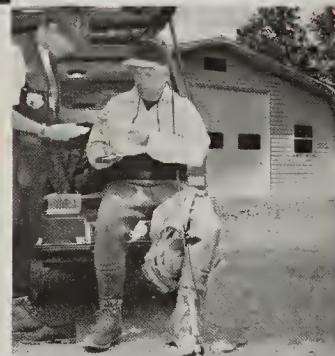
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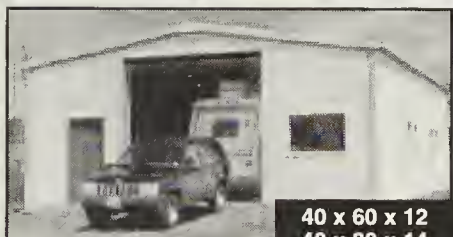
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$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{F A L L} \\
 \text{D } \overline{\text{C O L O R}} \\
 7 \text{ C A} \\
 \hline
 \text{L L} \\
 \text{L B} \\
 \hline
 \text{B O} \\
 \text{B R} \\
 \hline
 \text{B R} \\
 \text{B R} \\
 \hline
 \end{array}$$

If $B = \underline{\quad}$ then $L = \underline{\quad}$
 and $R = \underline{\quad}$ and $O = \underline{\quad}$
 and $A = \underline{\quad}$ and $F = \underline{\quad}$
 and $C = \underline{\quad}$.

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Every schoolchild knows October is the month when Christopher Columbus discovered the new world. They know because they rightfully resent the fact that while they will be busy in school on Columbus Day, many of their parents will be given a holiday.

This year Columbus Day sales will be held on October 12. According to Columbus (who should know), this is the date when one of his sailors saw land from the prow of the "Pinta." Last year, however, Americans commemorated Columbus Day on October 13, and next year we will observe it on October 11.

The year of discovery is easier to recall. Here's how: Using the well known ABCDarian code whereby $A = 1$, $B = 2$, $C = 3$, etc., you can ascertain that the initials of Colon of Genoa, Cristobal, C.G.C., stand for the digits 3 7 3. Following the example of the calendar makers who decided that Columbus Day might be October 12, plus or minus one, we use the numbers $373 + 1$ (374), and $373 - 1$ (372).

The square of 374 is 139876.

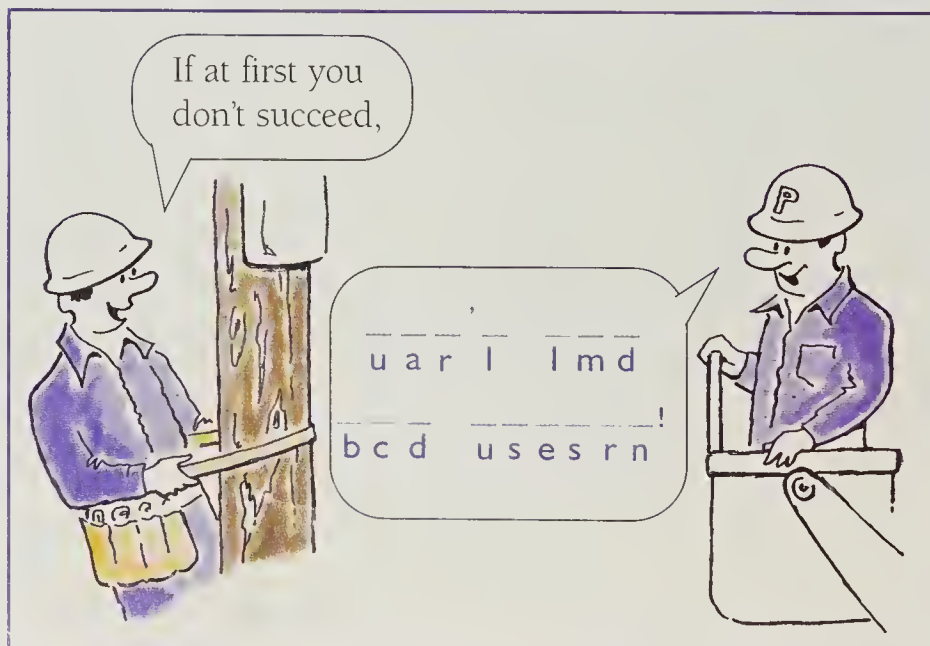
The square of 372 is 138384.

The difference between the two is 1492.

The rest is history.

Percy P. Cassidy

Poles Apart

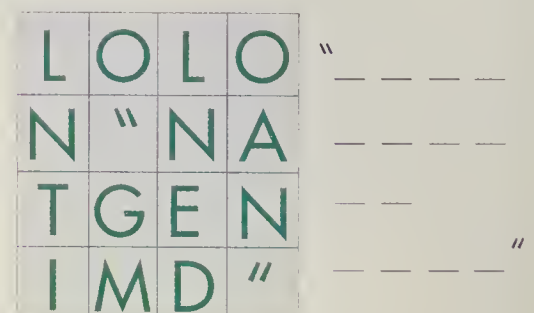


Use the capital letters below to fill in the blanks above.

"DGIKNORSTVY" means
 "unscrambled"

Say Watt?

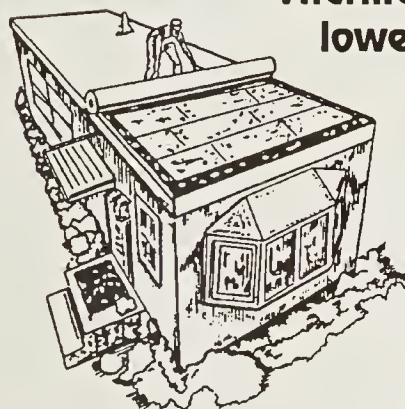
What Columbus might have said upon setting foot on San Salvador. Begin at one quotation mark and end at the other to spell out the four hidden words. Move from letter to adjacent letter in any direction; left, right, up, down, or diagonally. Each letter is used only once.



Answers on page 37



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Hank's gardening guide

by Hank Smith

Now begins the garden's winter siesta, and preparing for changes and additions to the overall landscape.

It's time to intensify control of winter weeds in the lawn. Enjoy fall-flowering chrysanthemums and dahlias. Should an early frost be forecast, protect plants with light coverings. Bed sheets due for the washing machine and large cardboard boxes give good protection.

We're fortunate in the South as our planting season for trees and shrubs extends from October until late February or early March.

Lawn weed control

Nearly every lawn has some type of winter weed problem. Broadleaf weeds (henbit, chickweed, clovers), wild onion and wild garlic are probably the worst. Most are easily controlled with the proper herbicide. Wild garlic usually is more common than wild onion – and is harder to control. It is nearly impossible to get rid of either with a single treatment. It usually takes two or three years and is done by preventing formation of new bulbs or bulbets. For garlic and onion control, make first application this fall after plants come up and are growing. Apply again in the spring to get those that are growing then. Continue treatments until all are eradicated.

Garden sanitation

Keeping the garden clean of litter and dead plant parts is a good horticultural practice every month of the year. It is especially important now that perennials, vegetables and some shrubs display dead leaves. You'll also want to remove old, dried flower stems or diseased growth that are potential carriers of diseases and insects. These could re-infect the garden next spring. Healthy leaves beneath shrubs may be left as winter mulch.

Fall pruning

Judicious selection prevents the chore of heavy pruning. For example, a wise choice of dwarf and semi-dwarf shrubs in the foundation planting will necessitate pruning only to remove stray branches and dead limbs. Shrubs that flower in the spring should be trained by pruning immediately after flowering, should they need such. Many shrubs such as forsythia, oriental magnolia, lilac, weigelia, azalea and rhododendron produce flower buds in the summer previous to their flowering the following spring. Pruning too late will remove these buds.

Planting trees and shrubs

In early fall, about the only plants available are container grown. After deciduous plants become dormant and lose

their leaves in early winter, they may be dug either bare-root or balled-and-burlapped. Deciduous or evergreen plants above 12 feet in height seldom are moved bare-root. Balled-and-burlapped plants should have a ball 8 to 10 inches per inch of trunk diameter. This assures ample soil and less danger in root damage.

Store caladiums

Easily overwintered, caladium bulbs should be dug as soon as leaves die back, or immediately after a light frost. Dry bulbs by putting them in a sunny spot until clinging soil and leaves can be removed. Then pack the bulbs in dry sawdust, sand or peat moss; or wrap in newspaper. Store in a frost-free spot until planting time next spring.

Winter annuals

Looking ahead to spring, this is the time to plant sweet pea seeds in the ground. At the base of a wire fence or trellis, prepare soil by digging a trench 6 to 8 inches deep. Spade in old barnyard manure, along with humus. Plant seed one-half to one inch in depth. Water well. In late winter or early spring, train plants to fence or trellis. Snapdragons, larkspur and calendula tolerate some cold. The long-range weather forecast for 1998-1999 is for a mild winter. Should a prediction be for temperatures below 28 degrees, mulch with broad leaves and/or cover with sheets or cardboard boxes.

Spring glories

Looking ahead to spring, this is the time to get spring-flowering bulbs in the ground. Among these are daffodils, hyacinths, crocus, grape hyacinths, snowdrops, scilla, tulips and anemones. Plant in well-pulverized soil that has been spaded to a depth of about 12 inches. Well-drained locations are important for good bloom production. Tulip bulbs respond better if refrigerated in the vegetable crisper or hydrator of refrigerator for several weeks. Get all bulbs in the ground by early December.



Snap dragons
& sweet peas

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Math Words
COLOR / D = FALL
65254 / 7 = 9322

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Brown Sugar Apple Pie

Crust

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup butter-flavored or plain vegetable shortening
5 tablespoons water, chilled with ice

Plan to use crust immediately after mixing.

In a medium-sized bowl, combine flour and salt. Cut in shortening with a pastry blender until flour and shortening are blended into pea-size chunks. Sprinkle with ice water, one tablespoon at a time. Toss lightly with a fork until dough forms into a ball. Divide dough into two parts. Then, on a lightly-floured pastry sheet or counter, roll crust a few times. Then flour it lightly on top, turn it over and roll from other side. Don't roll more than necessary, or dough will be tough. Makes enough for one two-crust 9-inch pie.

Filling

Combine and place in pastry-lined pie pan:

1/2 cup white sugar	1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/2 cup brown sugar	1/8 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour	6 cups peeled, thinly-sliced cooking apples
3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon	

Sprinkle on top of filling in crust 2 teaspoons margarine or butter, cut up. Add top crust, seal, trim and slit to allow steam to escape. Bake at 400 degrees for 45-50 minutes. Toward the end of the baking period, check to see if the crust is browning too much. If so, cover the edges with aluminum foil.

Nutritional analysis: per serving: 439 calories, 3.6g protein, 64g carbohydrate, 20g fat, 5g saturated fat, 0mg cholesterol, 3g fiber.



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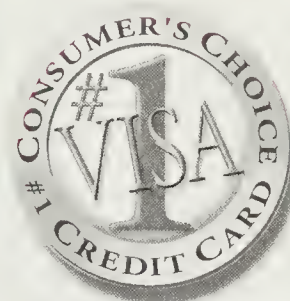


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